

THE *Country* GUIDE

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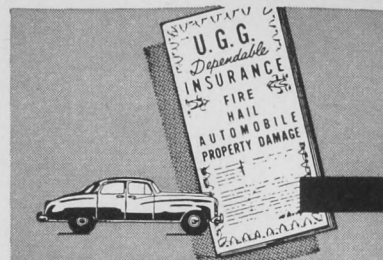
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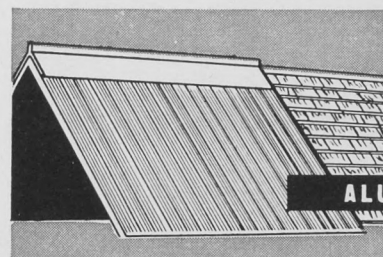
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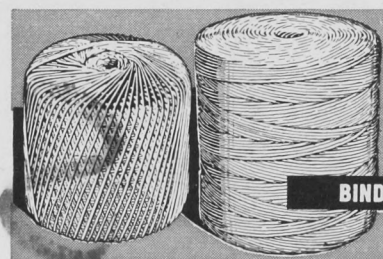
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THE Country GUIDE

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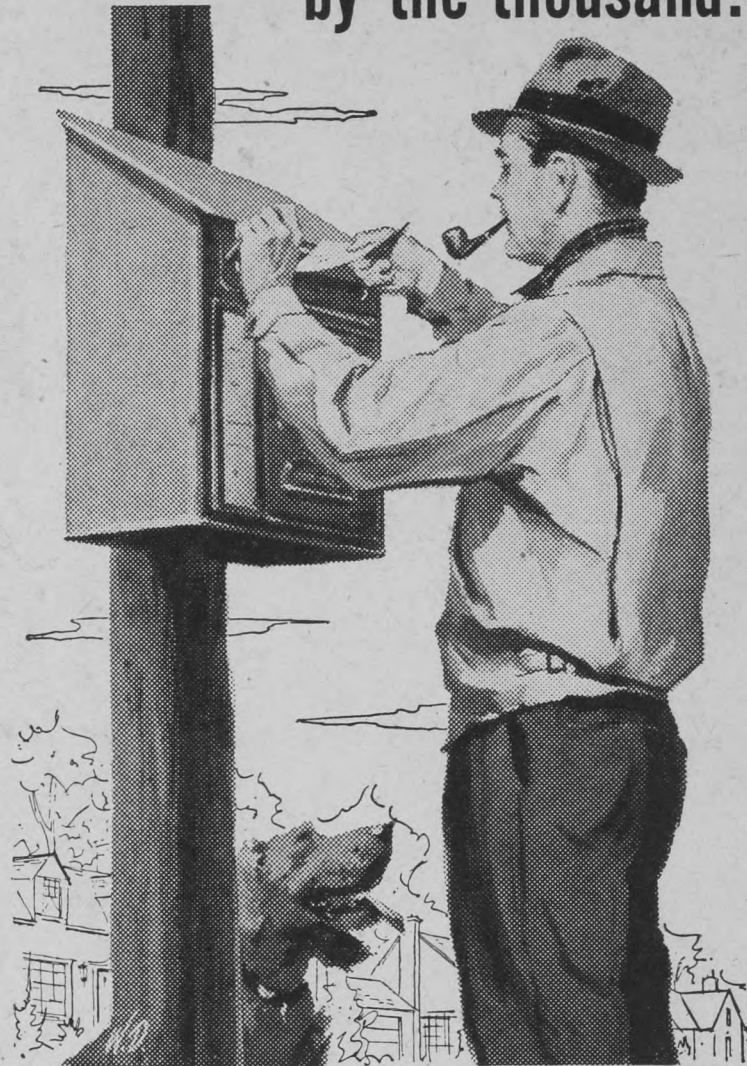
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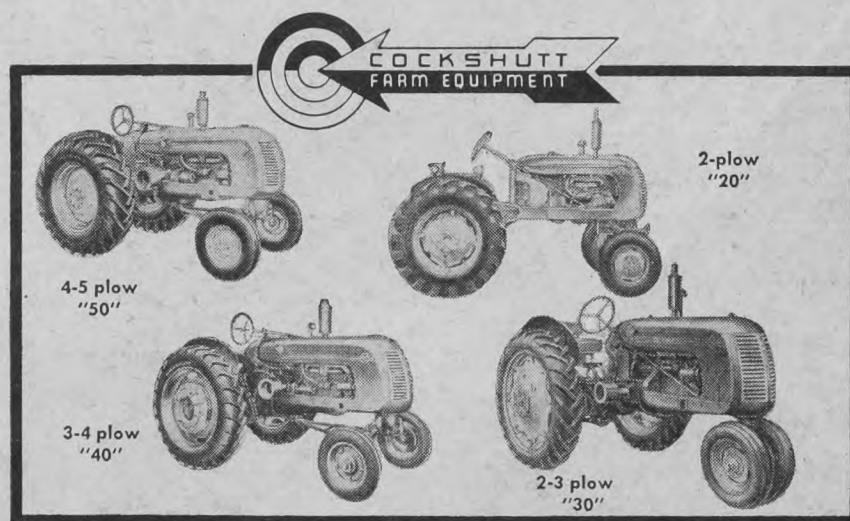
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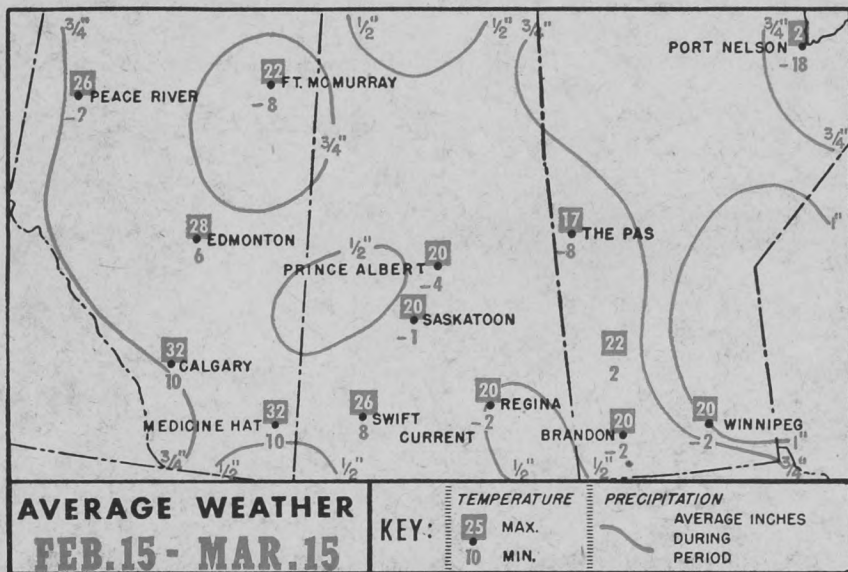
Builders of heavy-duty farm machinery
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Prairie Weather

Prepared by DR. IRVING P. KRICK and Staff
for

THE *Country* GUIDE

(Allow a day or two either way in using this forecast. It should be 75 per cent right for your area, but not necessarily for your farm.—ed.)



Alberta

Temperatures during the last half of February in Alberta will average about one to two degrees below normal. However, shortly before the month ends, a warming trend will begin. This will result in above-normal temperatures throughout Alberta during March. The two short cold spells in prospect during the next four weeks, will be important, since minimum temperatures of well below zero will be recorded. The warm spells indicated

will offer several consecutive days with afternoon temperatures well above the freezing mark.

Precipitation amounts will be above normal for the first two weeks, with drier than usual weather during the last two weeks.

Livestock will warrant continued protection and heavy supplemental feeding during the balance of February. March, however, will witness some thawing and ranges in the south should provide limited forage. V

PRECIPITATION
30 DAYS
ahead
TEMPERATURE



Saskatchewan

The southeastern portion of Saskatchewan may expect temperatures during this period to average two to three degrees warmer than is normal. Elsewhere in the province, temperatures during the next four weeks will range from near normal during late February, to warmer than normal in March. During the two cold spells, Saskatchewan residents may expect minimum temperatures to drop to ten degrees or more below zero.

Moderate to heavy snowfall will precede each of the cold spells, with

the result that generally above-normal precipitation will be recorded during the last half of February. Less than normal amounts are in prospect for the first two weeks of March.

Moderate snow cover will provide fall rye, legumes, and perennial grasses with ample protection against low temperatures and winter injury.

Except for several days of rather cold weather in early March of last year, Saskatchewan temperatures averaged much warmer than usual for this period. V

PRECIPITATION
30 DAYS
ahead
TEMPERATURE



Manitoba

Generally warmer than usual weather is in store for Manitoba during the mid-February to mid-March intervals. The frequent occurrence of above-normal temperatures will offer ample opportunity for carrying on routine outdoor chores. However, minimum temperatures well below zero will occur on several days during the two cold spells.

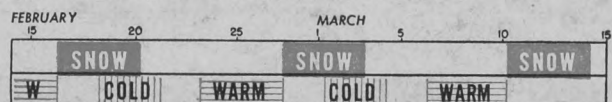
In the southern portion of the prov-

ince, precipitation totals for the period will be about normal, although slight excesses will be observed in the extreme southern border areas. To the north, precipitation deficiencies will be recorded.

Adequate snow cover in the southern agricultural areas will keep winter injury to fall rye and perennial crops, at a minimum.

Last year, temperatures averaged warmer than usual. V

PRECIPITATION
30 DAYS
ahead
TEMPERATURE



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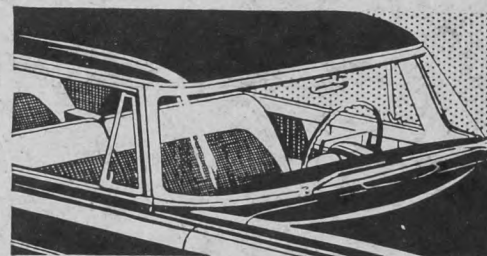
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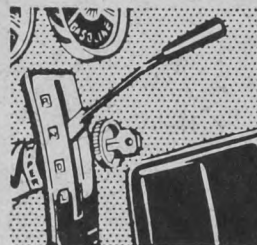
Years ahead in style! Lowest and sleekest of all three. Longest hood... most massive grille... most impressive headlights, set deep in the rakish angle of the front fenders.

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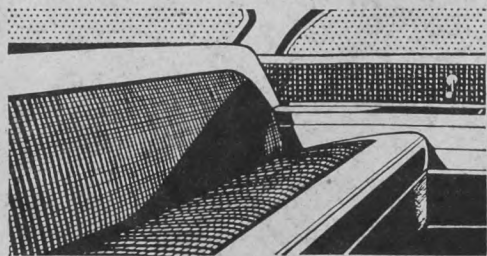
Your Chrysler-Plymouth-Fargo dealer invites you to compare all three. Because, if you do, chances are you'll change to Plymouth!



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C.F.A. Annual Meeting

THE 19th annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which took place in Edmonton last month, involved seven days of meetings. The first two were taken up by two conferences, one in eastern and the other in western Canada, where resolutions arising from within each region are debated before they go forward to the C.F.A. annual meeting. This year, the western agricultural conference considered 61 resolutions. Of these, about two-thirds were approved by the Conference, some of them after amendment. The fate of the remainder was varied. Some were tabled, others withdrawn, still others referred to commodity committees, or to the C.F.A. Board, or were lost, either on voting, or for lack of a seconder. An additional 36 resolutions came forward from the eastern agricultural conference.

The third day was required for a meeting of the C.F.A. Board prior to the opening of the two-day public sessions. These sessions were presented with 56 resolutions for consideration. In addition, 19 further resolutions arose out of special commodity meetings for the consideration of poultry, general livestock, and special hog problems.

Thus, when the final two-day board meeting was held, which constitutes the official annual meeting of the C.F.A., it had for consideration about 110 resolutions, in addition to reports of special committees. Six of the resolutions had come forward in a policy statement from the Dairy Farmers of Canada, which had met in Regina, the previous week.

Undoubtedly the report that was of most far-reaching significance was that made by the six-man Policy Committee appointed at the semi-annual meeting held in Winnipeg, July, 1953. This committee already had held five meetings of one to three days each, and expects to complete its work by the time of the next annual meeting. It has now to complete a report on marketing legislation and farm credit, and to give consideration to such matters as international trade, surplus disposal, co-operative activity, agricultural education, research, soil and water conservation, and one or two other matters. The completed recommendations of the Committee on marketing and farm price supports was considered by the board at Edmonton, and this report, as revised by the board, will be made public as soon as the national office is able to put it into shape. Meanwhile, a panel discussion involving a committee recommendation that a parity price formula be incorporated in legislation, took place during the public sessions in Edmonton and served perhaps to modify the opinions of many of those who took part in, or heard, the discussion.

With reference to present price support under the Agricultural Prices Support Act, President H. H. Hannam, in his presidential address, called attention to two deficiencies which the present Act has, in the mind of farmers. "Firstly," he said, "the Act provides no specific measuring rod, or formula, to explain under what circumstances and in what manner supports will be applied; and secondly, there is a lack of understanding of the program in the public mind, and seemingly little appreciation of the value of the program to the economy of Canada as a whole." Referring to his own statement five

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture holds its nineteenth annual meeting in Edmonton

by H. S. FRY



Some leading figures at Edmonton: J. A. Ferguson, president, Ontario Federation of Agriculture; J. E. Brownlee, president, United Grain Growers Ltd.; H. H. Hannam, president, C.F.A.; W. J. Parker, president, Manitoba Pool Elevators and first vice-president C.F.A.; Gilbert McMillan, president, Dairy Farmers of Canada; Mrs. G. Telford, National Women's Committee; R. C. Marler, president, Alta. Fed. of Agriculture.

years ago, Mr. Hannam quoted the following: "In the support program there is no well defined procedure to indicate what would be fair to producers, what action should be the responsibility of the government, and what obligations should properly be accepted by the taxpayers.

"The absence of any formula or general rule for the use of price supports leaves our producers in the enviable position of special pleaders on each commodity, as they get into difficulty. It leaves a situation open whereby uninformed taxpayers may compel political considerations to take precedence over economic safeguards to agriculture and the general welfare; and it leaves government members

in a position where the guiding principle of their decisions may be—as little support as they can safely get away with."

THE Rt. Hon. James G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture for Canada, was the principal guest speaker at Edmonton, as he has been for a number of years past. Referring to the present government policy, Mr. Gardiner described the purposes of the Agricultural Prices Support Act and the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act, which together comprise the government's price support legislation. The Minister presented some statistics with reference to the position of apples, potatoes, eggs, wheat, cattle and hogs for the year 1953, as compared with the 1935-39 period. "I think," he said, "I can best indicate the results of this policy by stating what the position was with regard to most of the products before the policy was adopted, and what it has been recently."

Probably no one in the history of Canadian politics has ever been able to assemble a group of figures and assert quite as blandly as Mr. Gardiner, that they prove the

soundness of federal agricultural policy. Wheat marketing, for example, is administered from the Department of Trade and Commerce, through the Canadian Wheat Board, operating in recent years under the International Wheat Agreement. Yet Mr. Gardiner's statement implied that price legislation administered by the Canada Department of Agriculture, has been responsible for increasing wheat production from a 312-million-bushel average in the 1935-39 period, to 614 million bushels in 1953; and correspondingly, for increasing the farm value of wheat from \$211 million to \$726 million; home consumption from 114 million bushels to 127 million bushels; and wheat exports from 183 million bushels to 269 million bushels. An amazing achievement! Knowing that the Minister in this case must have worked through another department of government, the senior partner of the team "God and Jimmy Gardiner" surely must have contributed a little more than usual.

Notwithstanding all this, no one is listened to with more interest, when he comes before the annual meeting of the C.F.A. The Minister speaks for the government; and he is a friend of the farmer. Now entering his twentieth year as Minister of Agriculture for Canada, he has served in this capacity longer than any other Canadian, and perhaps longer than any other minister of agriculture anywhere. Long experience has taught him whether to lay the facts on the line, or around the corner, and he performs with equal facility in either situation.

A SPECIAL C.F.A. committee to study the possibility of carrying hog grades through to the customer, reported that for the present, and until the new hog grades proposed by the C.F.A. are accepted by the government, this would appear to be impracticable. The committee did recommend, however, that regardless of the grade of hog, a single No. 1 grade be established for bacon. It likewise recommended that fresh and processed pork cuts from Grade A hogs be identified in the packing-house with a grade (Please turn to page 60)

Collaboration

Mr. Gardiner speaks to the C.F.A. at Edmonton

"THIS organization was set up during the first year I was at Ottawa and at this time, when you are meeting in your nineteenth annual convention, I am well advanced into my twentieth year as Minister of Agriculture for Canada . . . I think . . . if it had not been for the efforts of leaders of that time in the farmers' co-operative marketing organizations . . . and their further efforts to maintain it financially and otherwise throughout the period and the difficult times immediately following the war, you could not be today meeting in the nineteenth annual gathering.

"Furthermore, if it had not been for the understanding and helpful co-operation of your organization throughout all those years, the Department of Agriculture could not have introduced and carried through many policies which proved helpful, not only in maintaining agriculture, but also the national economy.

"It was therefore pleasing to me to hear the president refer to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture as having reached a place in national recognition, influence and prestige, where it has become one of the main constructive forces shaping national and international agricultural policies for this country."

Snake Lake Cattle Trek



Upper left: Martin Rediron, Cyril Hansen and Martin Smith with some of the Hereford heifers, at the Martin Rediron home, Snake Lake, Sask. Upper and lower right: Doubling up on a portage, the cat takes sleighs separately. Cattle sleigh is tarpaulin covered. Lower left: Author Neilson and truckload of cattle at Lac la Ronge.

"EVERYONE on the side of the sleigh!" "Get those guys out of the caboose to help!" "Get a rope from the box around a tree, and back to the box again!"

Six head of cattle in an improvised box on the cat-train sleigh were teetering precariously on one sleigh runner and threatened to upset at any time. The shouting came from Don Litwin, cat driver on Lawrence Lemoal's cat train running over rough portages and roadless lakes between Lac La Ronge and Snake Lake in Saskatchewan's far North. It was Sunday afternoon, March 14. We were on a steeply sloping portage on the other side of Bigstone Lake about eight miles on our way to Snake Lake with the critters. It was the start of an exciting and eventful 90-mile trip at four miles per hour in zero March weather.

Located 265 miles north of Prince Albert, on the edge of the Precambrian Shield, the isolated Metis settlement of Snake Lake is populated by about 250 Metis people and served by a government trading store, a public school, and a Catholic church. The surrounding area is sparsely dotted with large hay meadows suitable for fodder and grazing. A good highway runs 175 miles from Prince Albert to Lac La Ronge. From there on, 90 miles of portage trail and lakes separate Snake Lake from the outside world. The settlement is serviced by air the year round. During the winter months, non-perishable supplies like gasoline, flour and hardware are brought in by cat train—a crawler tractor drawing three or four heavily loaded sleighs.

In years gone by there were many cattle at Snake Lake. The former owners, when leaving the settlement, killed off their cattle, leaving no animals in

Moving a few head of cattle by cat-train over roadless country in winter is no cinch



Snake Lake settlement, 265 miles by road, north of Prince Albert.

by J. D. NEILSON

the district. In line with the Saskatchewan Government policy of helping the far northern Metis peoples to help themselves, the Department of Agriculture provided five bred heifers and a bull about a year ago, as a nucleus for livestock development at this settlement of 250 Metis people. A livestock club was formed, composed of the three members who received the cattle, with Cyril Hansen as president, Martin Rediron, vice-president, and Martin Smith, secretary. All these men are Metis and have agreed to return one bred heifer to the Department three years from now, for each animal they have received. The returned animals will be used for further redistribution to other Metis people of the settlement on the same basis.

HARRY LANG, assistant agricultural representative, had gone with me from Prince Albert to Lac La Ronge. On Saturday morning, March 13, we had loaded the cattle and set out. The 175-mile road trip to La Ronge was rough on the cattle, but otherwise uneventful. On Sunday morning we transferred the animals from the truck to the cat-train

sleigh and got on our way to Snake Lake at about three o'clock in the afternoon. Martin Smith and his brother George, who met us at La Ronge along with Don Litwin and Bill Sanderson, the cat operators, made up the party.

No one slept very much that night. The steady "chugging" of the D-4 cat, the steady smell of diesel fuel, and the numerous sloping portage trails didn't help the cattle to be any less restless. Eight large roadless lakes separate La Ronge from Snake Lake. Between these lakes, and in some cases right on them, are rock- and tree-covered portages that have to

be crossed to get from one lake to the next. On the steep side-slopes of the portages, ropes had to be attached to the sleigh box, thence around a tree, and back to the sleigh box. Two or three men would get on the end of the rope and hold the sleigh up, while the tractor eased the sleigh over the bad spot without upsetting. The steep climbs from the lakes up to the crest of the rock portages were accomplished by doubling. This involved uncoupling the sleighs and hauling them up the banks one at a time on the end of a long cable, the total load being too great for the tractor to haul. The steep slopes down to the next lake were negotiated with "rough luggin." Logging chains wrapped around the runners of the sleighs kept them from sliding too fast and pushing the tractor out of control.

Twenty-six hours after leaving La Ronge the cat train pulled its load of livestock, gasoline, and oil into the settlement of Snake Lake. Here the real fun began, with all of the natives in their colorful clothes, on hand to welcome us. Cat trains don't usually handle cattle, with the result that the improvised box on this (Please turn to page 42)



[Guide photos]

Top left: Sewing display in Agriculture Building. Top right: F. M. Baker, Canadian Meat Packers Council, on "The Future of Saskatchewan's Livestock Industry."

Sask. Farm Folk Convene

FOUR annual conventions, a provincial seed fair, and an interesting program for farm women highlighted the 23rd annual Farm and Home Week at the University of Saskatchewan, January 10 to 14. Members of the Saskatchewan Agricultural College Graduates' Association, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (prov. branch), and the Saskatchewan Field Husbandry and Agricultural Societies' Associations, with their wives and guests, were given a glimpse of past achievements and future problems of Saskatchewan agriculture.

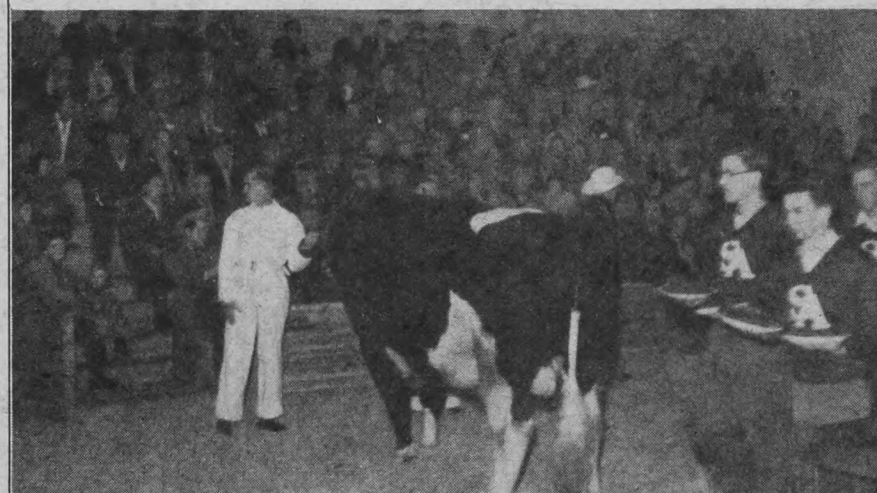
Left: Eighty-one-year-old Dr. W. J. F. Warren of Bel-beck, first prize winner in forage crop sheaf classes, has been showing at Seed Fair since 1917. Right: Dr. F. H. Auld on "Fifty Years of Agricultural Progress in Sask."



Seed Growers' Panel—from left to right: S. M. Ingham (standing), J. Farquharson, W. T. G. Wiener, Ottawa; L. Bell, Saskatoon, and G. South.



Silage Committee—from left to right: Dr. W. J. White, Earle Roger, Dr. J. M. Bell, Prof. O. Symes, T. A. Johnson of Melfort at microphone.



Spectators guessing weight of University herd sire in Livestock Pavilion at final event, Friday, while students serve luncheon.



National 4-H contestants, Mildred Craig and Elaine Flock of the Eastman Food Club demonstrate the advantages of a balanced diet.

the Treasure

by ED AINSWORTH



of Yancy Creek



INSIDE the pocket of his faded old yellow duck pants, Matt Lamar felt the blue bottle cold against his leg. He sprawled in his usual spot on the porch of the two-room clapboard shanty, with the sun just beyond his toes, but today he did not intend to stay as was his wont.

He looked out over the signs and symbols of his failure, the few emaciated tobacco plants stretching in scabbled abandon toward the cedar brake, the tottering cowshed, now empty, the doveweed growing where the wheat and corn should have been planted, but he saw nothing. He was too busy thinking.

He put his hand in his pocket and clutched the bottle tightly, the dark blue bottle with the cork that had gone to dust and the faded writing on the brownish paper. He held the bottle as if he feared it might fly out into the unseasonably hot April sun that was scorching the mesquites and the cedar brakes and the old Fort Concho Road and the Texas Colorado River basin from Lometa to Austin.

He tried to figure what to do next. It had been so long since he had done anything that the mere effort of trying to plan a course of action was almost beyond his power of concentration. For only nine years he and Sarah had existed here in the clearing, but each year his efforts at making a living had grown feebler. He knew now he would need blasting powder, caps, a crowbar, a pick, a chisel and a drill, a windlass of some sort, two buckets, and a bottle of liquor if he got bit by the rattlers. There were bound to be plenty of rattlers down there.

SLOWLY his eyes focused on Sugar Loaf Mesa across Yancy Creek. He wondered again what had caused him to sit down on the granite boulder and to discover the bottle. If his brother Ed in Lampasas had not given him the four 12-gauge shells, he would not have gone hunting, and if he had not gone hunting he would not have paused beside Yancy Creek to dip up a drink with his hat, and if he had not taken the drink he would not have gone over to the boulder to rest and would not have uncovered the blue of the bottle with his boot. He lingered on the thought of the dark blue bottle lying there partly covered on the grey, decomposed granite earth, as incongruous as if he had turned up an African Pygmy or an Egyptian mummy. The whole isolated area was called the Devil's Gut, a tortured mass of giant boulders, close-packed cedars, precipitous bluffs, weird escarpments leading down to the Colorado itself.

He had laid down his old double-barrel Lefevre, his two rabbits and the squirrel, and picked up the bottle. It was heavy for its size and apparently of great age,

The dream of a lifetime—gold for the taking buried in a cave—enough to set a man's mind aflame and start him working as he'd never worked before

The glass was opaque, the ridging of the sides arranged in a fluted pattern. An infinitely fine plaited wire, apparently silver, was crisscrossed over the neck and around the cork. As he lifted it, the cork disintegrated in dust. He upended the bottle and shook out the remaining flecks. Something rustled faintly inside. He peered into the bottle.

There was a paper. He took a cedar twig, stripped off the leaves, and cautiously worked at the paper, and in a moment it came out, a tight curl. Even though it felt like light parchment he unrolled it gently to keep it from tearing. In fact, it did begin to split and he concluded it was paper after all rather than parchment.

The writing on it was fairly legible, in black, but

quite heavy as if it had been done with an improvised quill or a twig instead of a pen.

The date struck him first:

Feb. 17, 1837.

Better than 75 years ago, he thought quickly.

His eyes raced over the words, the quaint, desperate phrases:

Caint last much longer. Folowd 4 days by Indians. Food give out. 6 jack loads gold 13 jennets silver inggots hid 60 ft. deep in cave 15 paces N. We fild it with bowldrs. Leaving now, 4 of us, 2 wounded.

N. Gordon

Jas. Stone

Jose Carrillo

X (Tim Aten, his mark)

He had run the 15 paces north, careful even in his frenzied excitement to try to step off a proper normal pace. Close to the base of Yancy Bluff he found the opening. It might have passed for just another pile of boulders. The opening of the cave was small and went straight down instead of into the bluff. He could only guess whether it turned horizontal later. It was impossible to see far down. The whole aperture was filled with grey granite, blocks of it, chunks, imponderable boulders. He found himself tearing at them with his hands. They were immovable. He was panting, his hands were beginning to bleed.

He sat back on his haunches and tried to think. Sixty feet of material like that meant proper equipment and explosives and tools. It would be a long job. It would cost money.

For the first time in those nine years he wanted to get hold of some quick money. He had accepted his own laziness and drifting and inertia and evasion of life for so long he did not know how to start to get money. He and Sarah lived on small game and bee-tree honey and wild hog from the Colorado bottoms and an occasional sack of flour and some corn meal from his brother Ed's little store in town. When things ran out, they just got along for a spell on short rations.

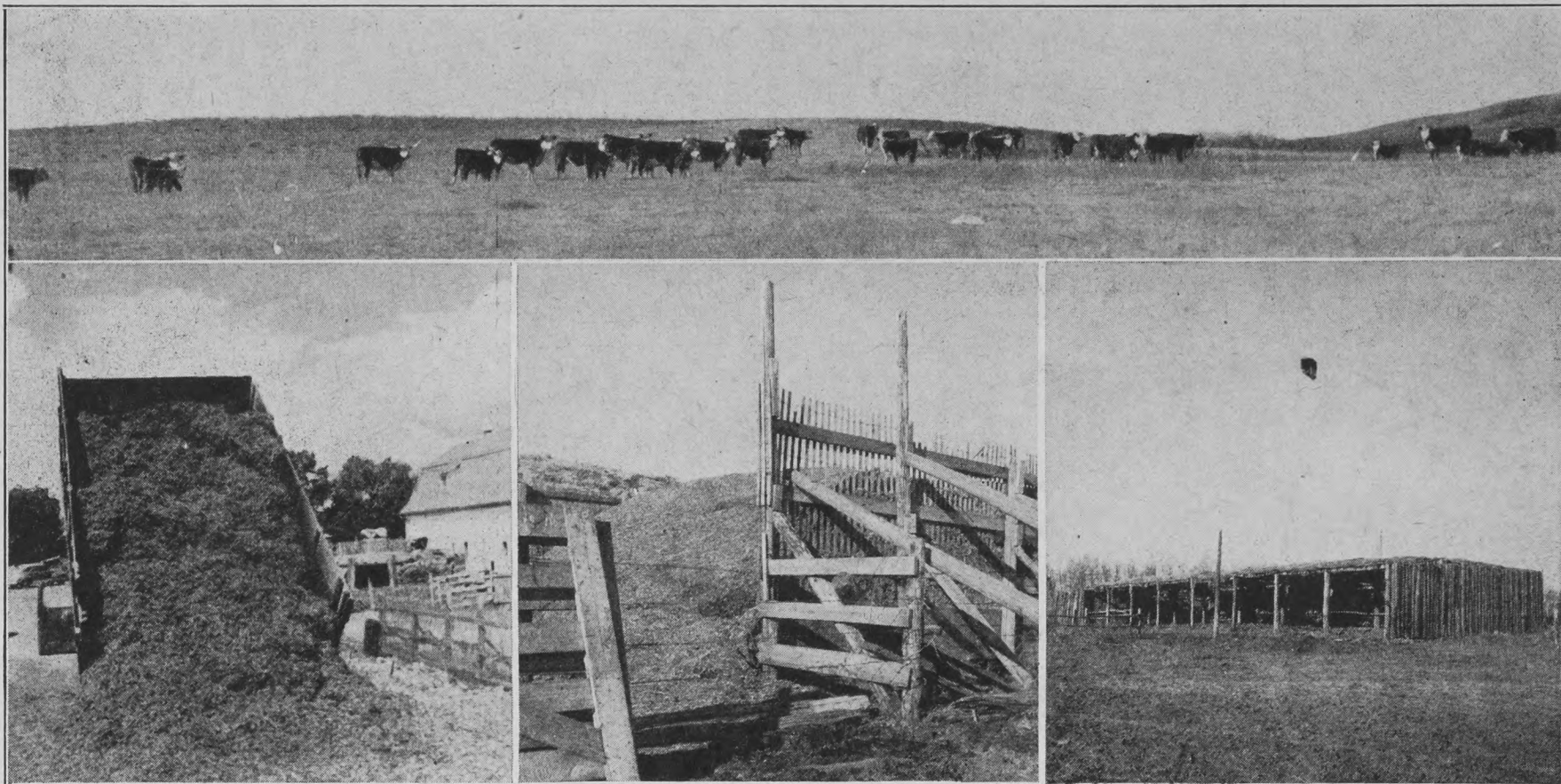
He knew he wouldn't dare tell Sarah about this discovery. The one thing she could not abide was his treasure hunting. He had found this out many times before. She was docile and resigned about everything else, but she was tar-nation set against any traipsing after hidden gold and silver.

NOW, on the porch in the warmth of the sun which ordinarily would have lulled him into a pleasant somnolence long before this, he lay and grappled with his double problem, how to elude Sarah and how to get the money for his immediate needs. He was more than wide awake. He was straining for an idea, grasping in (Please turn to page 44)



Behind a cedar, forty feet away Matt heard the deep boom and saw fragments fly.

Illustrated by James Simpkins



Top: Bar E Herefords grazing on the home ranch at Wawanesa, Manitoba. Left: First loads of chopped sweet clover brought in from the fields to make the 20 by 75-foot surface silo. Center: Walls of completed silo, now eight feet deep, required three sections of snow fencing. Right: Livestock shelter, located adjacent to the silos, is constructed of poles and slabs, and is open to the south.

Recipe for a Cattleman

AS his father's open touring car bumped and jolted its way along the rutted country roads of the southern Manitoba prairie in the early 1920's, young Elwood Downie used to stand up in the back and spot all the whitefaced Hereford steers grazing in the roadside pastures.

"When I grow up," he vowed, "I'm going to have a big herd of the best Herefords I can lay my hands on."

Today, a director and past president of the Manitoba Hereford Association and vice-president of the Canadian Hereford Association, the husky owner of the Bar E Hereford Ranch at Wawanesa can look back on 25 years of cattle raising, and pass on to others the recipe which made his boyhood dreams come true. The number one ingredient of a successful cattleman, Elwood Downie would agree, is to have an inborn love for good livestock. Add to this a measure of sound judgment and business ability, place them in a favorite location, and mix thoroughly with a lot of hard work. For spice you might add a few lucky breaks.

"A man can use a few lucky breaks in the cattle game," he added dryly.

You might say that Downie's appreciation for good livestock is a result of both inheritance and environment. His maternal grandfather was a Scotsman, with the well-known Scottish ken of good animals. Both Elwood and his father were Manitoba farm born; the latter specialized in fine Clydesdale horses, and always encouraged the boy in his junior club projects. When Hector Downie died in 1935, Elwood and his mother carried on with the farm, but Elwood never lost sight of his ambition to raise Herefords.

The first real move to get into the cattle business on a commercial scale



Elwood and Edith Downie with two-year-old son Gregg, in the living room of their home.

Efficiency, and a love of good livestock have spelled success in this beef cattle business

by C. V. FAULKNER

came in 1930, just at the start of the big depression. Borrowing all he could on a small insurance policy, and some more from a sympathetic uncle, Downie bought a carload of heifers, and a good Hereford bull. The heifers weren't as good quality as he would have liked, but the influence of the bull soon showed in the new calf crop. All of them were a great improvement over their dams.

"There's no substitute for a good bull," Elwood states. "A poor quality one will prove to be the most expensive animal you can buy. No matter how much care you give him, he'll keep turning out low-grade stock."

The Bar E herd grew very slowly in those depression years. Downie had to sell most of each year's increase to

keep up with operating expenses. For example, a choice 1,050-pound steer sold for as low as \$28.85 at the Winnipeg stockyards in 1934, in many cases the producer's share being little more than half that amount. This meant a pretty big stock turnover just to keep things going. But the Bar E owner has a handy philosophy to carry him through times like that.

"A cattleman has to hang on in the bad years and be ready to cash in during the good ones," he pointed out. "Conditions will change—they always do."

BEFORE many years had passed, the Bar E herd began a steady increase in size; and more important still, it was showing a big improvement in quality over that first carload

of grade heifers. The next step was to buy a few purebred females. This proved to be a good investment, not just financially, but in the knowledge and friends Downie gained while attending sales in Canada and the United States.

It was while on one of these trips that Elwood bought MH Captain Real, one of the best bulls he ever owned. This started him in the production of top quality show steers, a target he had been aiming at for a long time. In the past few years, Bar E winners have included a grand champion bull, champion futurity bull, champion futurity female, and a reserve champion steer at the Manitoba Winter Fair. Calves purchased from the ranch also accounted for a grand champion bull, reserve champion steer, and 15 other awards at various fairs in the same period.

Today Elwood Downie's holdings consist of the 1,280-acre "home" ranch at Wawanesa, including the original section left by his father, plus a 20,000-acre ranch at Shilo which he operates in partnership with a former school chum, Joe Vanstone. The latter is eastern manager of a large insurance company, but keeps a herd on the Shilo place as a sideline.

Most of the 400-head Bar E herd graze at the Shilo ranch from early spring until after snow flies. When winter sets in they are driven across the Assiniboine River to the home ranch for winter feeding. Whether they walk or swim depends on the conditions at the time.

During the three-day drive last November they did a little of both, when particularly bad weather conditions filled the river with slush and ice. Raised on prairie pastures which

(Please turn to page 43)



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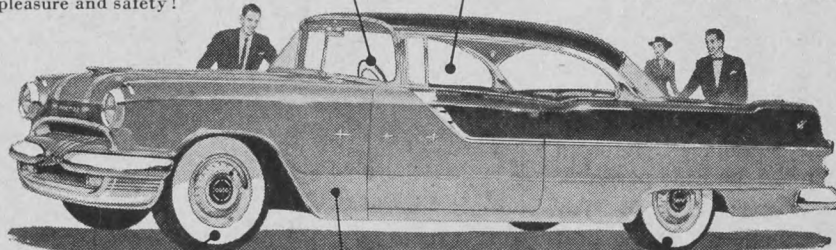
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Under the Peace Tower

by HUGH BOYD

MR. C. D. HOWE, as everyone knows, is by nature an optimist, and he is the kind of optimist who is regarded with some respect because so many of his cheerful predictions seem to be borne out by events. So when Mr. Howe strikes a gloomy note, no matter how subdued it may be, the contrast is startling. This certainly was the effect here—and probably throughout the country—when a few weeks ago, the Canadian trade minister returned from Geneva and said bluntly that the talks on a renewed General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade were going badly, and that he didn't exclude the possibility of GATT being wrecked.

Canada has been playing a constructive part in the tedious and anxious discussions at Geneva. As one of the great trading nations of the world, it has a tremendous stake in the future of GATT, which is the most ambitious and most promising effort yet made to liberalize international trade through a network of pacts. The specific concessions offered by one country to another are open to all the other partners. This is the search for relative freedom of trade through multilateral action.

Since GATT was designed in 1947—and expanded at later conferences—it has worked tolerably well. But it has been plagued by escape clauses, and by outright violations. The United States has undoubtedly been the chief cause of weakening GATT, but not the only one. Britain's import controls, for example, have acted as a check to some extent on the relaxing of trade barriers that all the partners have been seeking.

But if any one nation can be said to hold the key to the future of GATT, that nation is surely the United States. And the main difficulty is to be found in American farm policy, which is creating enormous pressures on a perplexed administration. The sincerity of the United States government, whether under Democratic or Republican auspices, is not to be questioned. But this is a clear case of someone having a bearcat by the tail. The parity price program, however attractive to American farmers, has steadily built up surpluses. Domestic measures such as school lunches haven't by any means disposed of them, so that Washington deems itself obliged to get rid of a vast amount of food through give-away and firesale methods. This could mean havoc for Canada and other exporters of farm products.

Even countries which are supposed to benefit from this bounty are unhappy; Thailand and Burma both protested last month that the well-meaning attempts of the United States to end famine through shipments of cheap rice was dislocating their economy instead of helping it, because they were upsetting regular markets in southeast Asia. Such are the ramifications of international trade.

Apart from the threat to Canadian farmers posed by the American agricultural surpluses, there's perhaps another effect of the high price support policy followed for so many years by



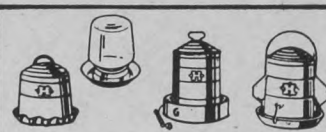
the United States. This is the attitude of the Canadian people toward price supports in their own country. Unless there is a wide understanding of the fact that Canadian and American policies are miles apart in this respect, pressures could easily build up to water down the already relatively mild program embodied in the Agricultural Prices Support Act. Even some members of Parliament, alarmed by what they see happening in the United States, might be persuaded that the whole principle is wrong.

Perhaps this is why H. H. Hannam, in his presidential address to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture at Edmonton the other day, stressed the basic differences between the two policies—one practically guaranteeing a profitable return, the other strictly a stop-loss proposition.

As Parliament learned early in this session, supports have cost the national treasury some \$80 million since 1946. To some, this sounds like a lot of money, even for a country with an annual budget of four billions. In comparison with the bounty lavished among American farmers, of course, it is insignificant. Moreover, of the accumulated total, all but about \$11 million is represented by market support for the livestock industry at the time of the foot-and-mouth disease epidemic, which constituted a national emergency.

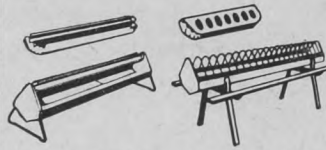
There are no signs that the government has any intention of changing its present floor price materially in either direction. It is highly unlikely to do anything that might tend to pile up surpluses on the American scale. Even as it is, the butter situation (where supports operate) is causing uneasiness in some quarters.

Recently, half a dozen members of the cabinet, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Howe and Mr. Harris among them, heard the annual submission of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council, which now claims more than 200,000 dues-paying members in five provinces. Among other things, the Council thought that far too little use had been made of the Agricultural Prices Support Act. But if the government did come to make more use of it, this would probably be because of a dislocation of foreign trade, an ever-present fear in official minds just now. And under such conditions Canadian agriculture would in all likelihood find itself worse rather than better off.



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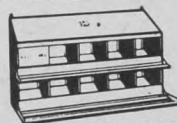


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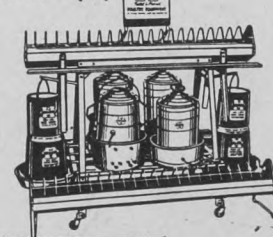


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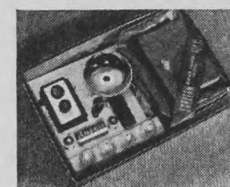
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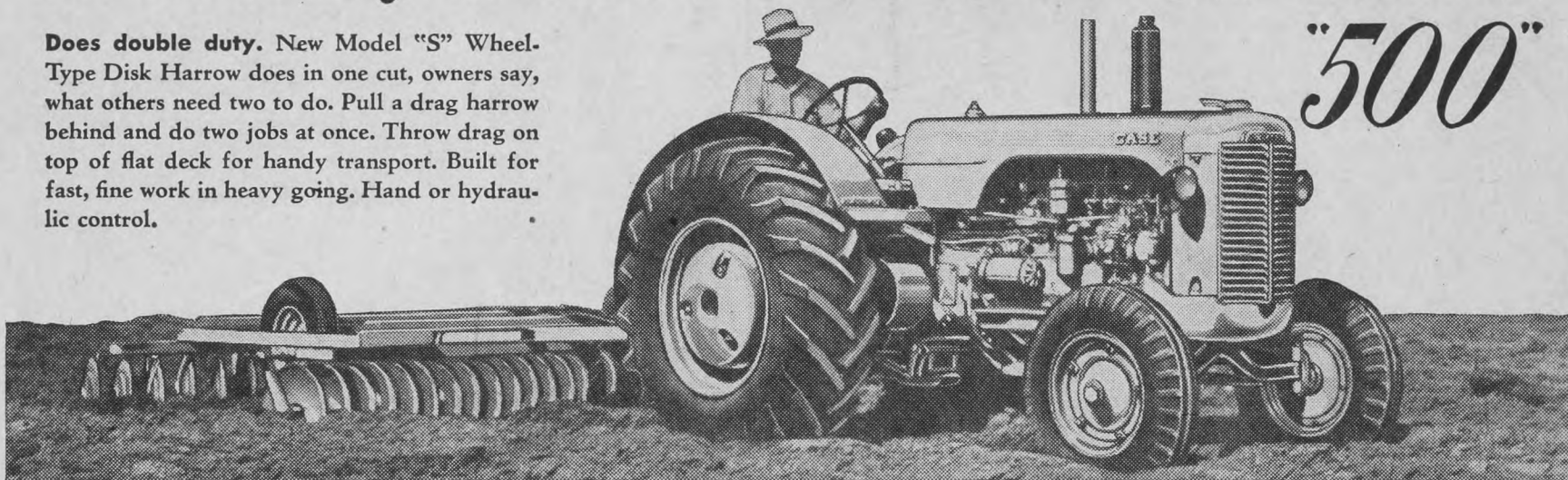
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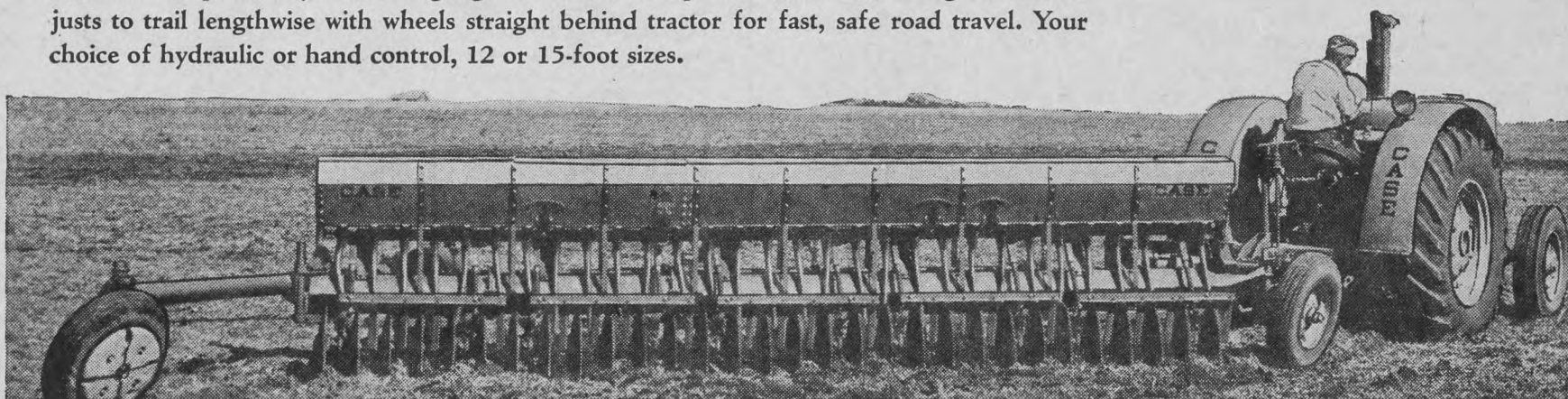
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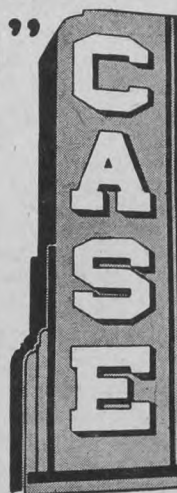
Trims costs by seeding as it disks. Big Wide One-Way Disk has famous Case Seedmeter that sows uniformly at the rate you set. Use it for fallowing, for building seedbeds. Flexible 3½-foot independently-mounted gangs assure uniform penetration in uneven ground. Adjusts to trail lengthwise with wheels straight behind tractor for fast, safe road travel. Your choice of hydraulic or hand control, 12 or 15-foot sizes.



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NEWS OF AGRICULTURE



Grain storage bins made with snow fencing, Bar E Hereford Ranch, Wawanesa, Manitoba.

Prairie-Wide Co-operative Seen

Co-operatives unite in two provinces and consider amalgamation in a third

THE "Federated Co-operatives Limited" came into being last month when delegates of the Saskatchewan Federated Co-operatives Ltd. and the Manitoba Co-operative Wholesale Ltd. voted unanimously at their respective meetings for amalgamation of the two groups. Net assets of the new organization will be over \$22,000,000, and their combined sales volume, which last year reached \$40,000,000, is expected to be considerably increased.

One result of the amalgamation will mean the Manitoba group will share ownership of the present assets of the Saskatchewan body, which include oil wells, a large modern refinery, a lumber mill, and a coal mine, in addition to distribution outlets, large and small, in various parts of that province. Similarly, members of the Saskatchewan organization will share ownership of the main office and warehouse, a modern feed mixing plant, and an oil blending concern of the Manitoba body. Present preferred dividend amounts held by both groups to the credit of their local consumer co-operatives will automatically become payable by the new two-province association. Head office of the combined organization will be at Saskatoon.

Decision to amalgamate marks the culmination of many months of careful analysis of immediate and long-term benefits by the boards of both provincial wholesales. The move is in line with the tendency of business today to merge smaller firms into large organizations, which will give them a large sales volume and enable them to be better equipped to offer competitive services and prices.

Farther west, delegates of the Alberta Co-operative Wholesale Association Ltd., at their two-day convention in Edmonton, instructed directors to seek amalgamation with the new Saskatchewan-Manitoba organization. If possible, this is to be achieved with the help of the United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Ltd., in order to represent Alberta as a consolidated unit. But if this proves unworkable, the Wholesale group is prepared to

seek amalgamation on its own. Because of the amount of investigative work required, it was decided at least a year would be required before it could be definitely known if amalgamation with Federated Co-operatives Ltd. would take place.

It would appear that co-operative organizations as a whole have come to realize that, in order to compete with "big business," they must become big business themselves. V

Advisory Farm Councils

LOCAL agricultural councils have been formed in several parts of Manitoba so that farmers will get full benefit of the latest in agricultural research. Each district body will consist of 10 to 15 members, chosen from the ranks of leading farm men and women and 4-H club leaders of that particular area. They will serve on a voluntary basis, their reward being a chance to share in making farming in their district an attractive and profitable enterprise. The agricultural council in each area will be a "two-way street" between the farmer and the Agricultural Extension Service. Through the medium of the new organizations, major problems of farm and home will be brought to the attention of agricultural representatives and relayed through them to the various research institutions. In turn, the benefits of new research findings and techniques will find their way back to the farms through the same channels. V

Hearings on Livestock Marketing

A PROPOSED plan for the marketing of livestock in Saskatchewan has been submitted to the Saskatchewan Marketing Board by a committee of livestock producers. The scheme calls for cattle, swine, and sheep to be sold under provisions of the Natural Products Marketing Act. To obtain the views of those engaged in livestock marketing and production, the Board will hold a series of public hearings

MEETING PLACE



Everything but the Squeal

A group of farmers were talking over the present method of selling hogs on a warm carcass basis. The question came up, "Does the farmer get paid for the whole hog?" One man recalled watching a government inspector at a local packing plant grading hogs. He had noticed that, before grading, each carcass was weighed on an automatic scale which printed the weight on the scale ticket. The carcass weight included the head, tongue, feet, tail, leaf lard and kidney, but he wasn't sure about the heart and liver. They all agreed that these parts were worth something too and wondered how they were paid for them.

This question is a natural one, so let's talk about it.

By-product Values Included

For the average market hog of 200 lb. the difference between live and warm dressed weight is 50 lb. Everyone who has watched an animal butchered has seen the internal parts removed—the heart, liver, stomach and intestines (with contents). These internal parts along with the hair and blood account for that 50 lb. About 30 lb. consists of stomach and intestinal contents and other waste material.



The remaining 20 lb. includes the heart, liver, raw fats (edible and inedible) casings, blood, hair, pancreas, spleen and scrap. Each

of these parts has a value and make up what are known as "killing credits". Since the value of these items changes frequently, the total of "killing credits" varies, but the current value of all these parts is always added into the price the packer pays.

From Carcass to Cuts

Shrink in cooling and removal of the head, tongue, leaf lard and kidney reduces the original 150 lb. warm weight to 132½ lb.



On the cutting table the carcass is taken apart into hams, bellies, backs or loins, shoulders or

butts and picnics all of which require trimming. The total weight of these cuts from a good carcass, trimmed to suit the market, is about 94 lb. Lower grades require heavier trimming and yield a smaller percentage of saleable cuts.

The 38½ lb. of carcass removed during the cutting operation includes feet, tail, spareribs, tenderloins, fat, bones and trimmings. Of course, these items together with the head and tongue, leaf lard and kidneys have a market value, and all constitute the "cutting credits". Like the killing credits they are included in the price the packer pays.



Thus, by the use of a detailed "cut-out" sheet covering all the various products and by-products of the hog, the packer arrives at the price he can pay for a whole animal on a 100 lb. dressed basis.

"DOC" BROWNELL'S CORNER



Seems to me that it makes little difference on what basis the packer buys hogs. The prices must reflect the value of all the parts in the animal. If a packer offers

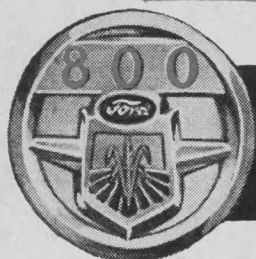
too little in relation to meat and by-product values, someone else gets the hog. If he pays too much, he loses on the deal.

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FORD announces

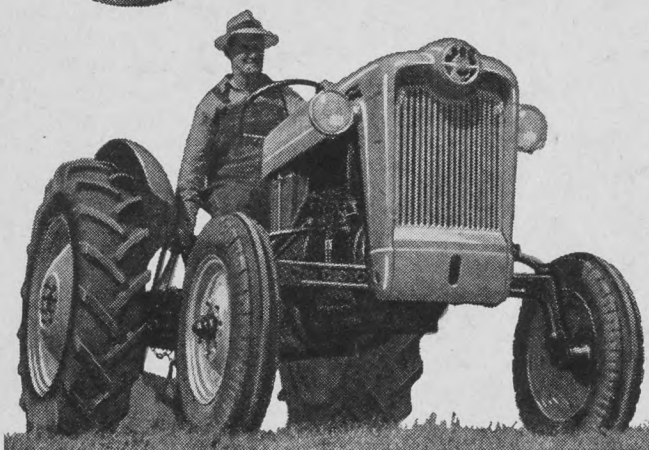
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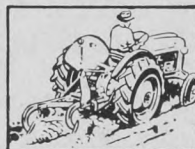
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on the drawbar



on the PTO



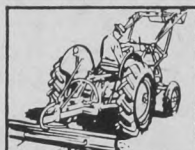
on the belt



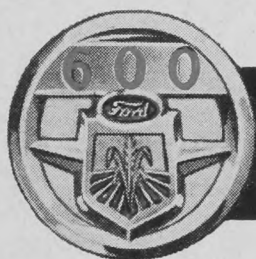
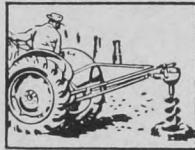
in the field



in the barnyard



and all around
the farm.



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NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

throughout the province. These are scheduled for Saskatoon, North Battleford, and Prince Albert during the week commencing March 7; Tisdale and Yorkton during that of March 14; Moose Jaw, Swift Current, and Maple Creek during that of March 21; and Carlyle and Regina during that of March 28. The Board will then make recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council whether or not the plan should be proceeded with. ✓

Holsteins Fly Atlantic

A SHIPMENT of eight Holstein bulls left Canada for Spain by plane around the middle of last month for use in the artificial breeding units of that country to improve the quality of Spanish dairy cows. Included in the load making the ocean flight were four bulls and a heifer calf, destined for the herd of Count Marzotto, Venice, Italy. The latter has the largest herd of Canadian-bred Holsteins in the world, numbering close to 1,000 head. Michael Motion of Oakville, Ontario, accompanied the animals as herdsman. After unloading the cattle in Spain and Italy, the plane continued on to India to pick up a load of monkeys consigned to the U.S.A., making a round trip of about 25,000 miles. ✓

New Dust Bowl Forming in South

UNLESS the area is saved by rain or snowfall, a dust bowl worse than that of the "thirties" may develop this spring in the Great Plains area of the United States. Only a near-miracle will prevent widespread soil blowing on 26 million acres in a 10-state sector which extends from west Texas to the Nebraska panhandle. Severe drought, that has been spreading across this country since 1950, plus above normal temperatures, spawned one of the worst dust storms in the area's history late last February, and damaged 16.7 million acres. This combination, which tends to increase the force and persistence of spring winds, appears to prevail again this year. Convinced that wind erosion can be checked, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service is urging farmers in that sector to sow grass in fields that should never have been plowed, and adopt strip-cropping and stubble-mulch tillage practices on the remainder to help conserve moisture and keep the soil in place. This region is the chief danger spot in the current U.S. drought emergency which has seen 937 counties in 18 states listed as drought disaster areas—almost one-third of the nation's total of 3,050 counties. ✓

Mexico to Increase Output

MEXICO is building three large fertilizer plants as part of her intensive campaign to increase farm production. The plants are expected to have an annual capacity of 600,000 tons, and thus enable the country to dispense with fertilizer imports that run as high as \$12 million a year. Another phase of the program will be an educational campaign among Mexican small farmers to increase fertilizer use. ✓



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Loans,
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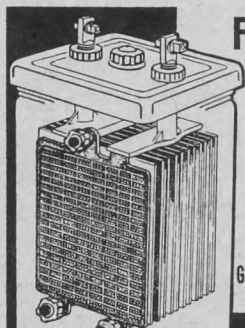
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NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

Get It At a Glance

Floor prices for hogs and eggs will be reduced substantially in Great Britain for 1956-57 and 1957-58. New minimum prices for milk, fat cattle, and sheep for that period are down slightly, compared with those already fixed for 1955-56. But even these reduced levels will involve a heavy charge on the taxpayer for subsidies, unless market prices rise. V

Canadian seed potatoes have been purchased by the Agricultural Bank of Greece to distribute to farmer co-operatives there for the second consecutive year. The initial shipment last year of 430 tons proved so successful 1,580 tons were ordered for this year, in spite of this season's higher prices. V

The third wheat crop failure since 1950 has been recorded in Yugoslavia because of adverse weather conditions. To help alleviate food shortages in that country, the U.S. Foreign Operations Administration has authorized the shipment of 150,000 tons of wheat, making a total of 435,000 tons supplied Yugoslavia this fiscal year. V

Seedings of winter wheat in the United States last fall were about six per cent less than those of the previous year, and nearly one-fourth less than in the fall of 1952. Present total acreage of winter wheat for all purposes is estimated at 43.4 million acres. V

Australian farmers have been advised to switch from wheat and consider alternate uses for their lands. Cattle fattening and fat lamb production are said to offer the most profitable prospects in that country for some years to come. V

The milk cow population of Canada is approaching the 3,371,000 mark, having now regained much of the decrease which took place after the last war when numbers dropped from 3,998,000 in 1945 to a 30-year low of 2,903,000 in 1951. V

About 287,184 pounds of U.S. surplus butter has been recombined with nonfat dry milk to make evaporated milk, some of which has been sold to Peru. An additional 45 million pounds will be converted to butter oil for human use, most of it for welfare distribution in foreign countries, such as Pakistan. V

The world's largest consumer of coffee and cocoa is the United States, which accounts for 60 per cent of the coffee exported and 40 per cent of the cocoa. The United Kingdom is the largest tea importer, taking 40 per cent of world exports. V

United States farmers have a big stake in the export market. Percentage of that country's agricultural output sold abroad in 1951 was: wheat, 48; dried milk, 45; rice, 37; dried peas, 35; cotton, 34; soybeans, 28; lard, 24; tobacco and hops, 23; plums and prunes, 21. V

Agricultural production in the United States could be increased to provide food, at present standards, for a population of 380 million within the space of ten years. V



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likes
soft pastels

John
likes rich
deep shades



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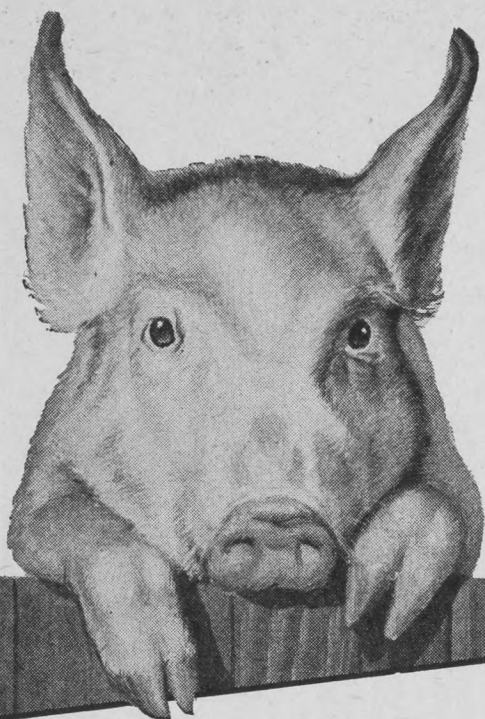
Mr. Abe Brubacher of Listowel, Ontario...

Saves pigs from Enteritis

by using feeds that contain

AUREOMYCIN*

CHLORTETRACYCLINE



READ WHAT
MR. BRUBACHER
HAS TO SAY...

R. R. 3 Listowel, Ont.
October 25, 1954

To whom it may concern:

In 1951, I had eighty pigs die from swine enteritis. These were from a herd of two-hundred and ninety-seven. My feed dealer mixed AUREOMYCIN in feed for me and the remainder of the pigs made a good recovery. One lot of five pigs with a bad case of enteritis I gave feed containing AUREOMYCIN. One pig had quit eating and died, but the other four pigs made a good recovery. I would not like to keep pigs if I could not secure AUREOMYCIN.

I have also used high level AUREOMYCIN feed when my laying flock of 1800 hens were not eating sufficient feed and egg production was low. It has brought feed consumption back to normal and increased egg production.

Last spring, we raised our chicks on feed containing MEGASUL and obtained excellent control of Coccidiosis.

(signed) Abe Brubacher

Mr. Brubacher, like many other Canadian livestock and poultry growers, finds that it is highly profitable to use feeds that contain the great antibiotic, AUREOMYCIN Chlor-tetracycline.

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You gain still another way when you buy poultry feeds that contain the *proved* anti-coccidial—MEGASUL** Nitrophenide. You give your chicks the best possible protection against coccidiosis outbreaks.

Ask your feed manufacturer or feed dealer for swine feeds that contain AUREOMYCIN—and for poultry feeds that contain both this great antibiotic *and* MEGASUL.

*Trade-Mark

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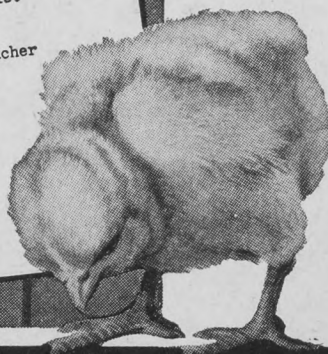


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LIVESTOCK



[Guide photos]



Above: A few head of feeders, grazing on a brome-alfalfa-crested wheatgrass pasture, and left, the Pugh farmyard with the partners' two houses in the foreground and the barn on the left. The winter feedlot is beyond the barn.

Stockyards to Farm And Back Again

These brothers combine grass, grain and feeder cattle with minimum of labor and make it pay

DRIVE on the winding, spruce-margined highway for 25 miles going west from Prince Albert and you will come to Holbein. Near that north Saskatchewan town you will locate the combined elite seed farm and cattle feeding station that Fred and Albert Pugh have been operating since their father retired some ten years ago.

In the old days a crop of calves was dropped on the Pugh farm every spring. Not any more. Fred and his dad bought feeders for one or two years during the war, but when Albert was discharged from the R.C.A.F. and he and Fred took the place over as a partnership they made the switch to feeders complete. They started with 70 or 80 a year, but have progressed until they now feed nearly 150 head.

The feeders are bought in the stockyards in Prince Albert. Heaviest buying takes place in October and November though they buy the odd load in the summer. The common practice is to leave an order with their com-

mission agent, and he buys in the type of yearling or two-year-old, medium-quality, 600-to-1,000-pound animal that he knows they prefer.

Animals bought in the summer go onto grass; and in the fall both old and new purchases are fed hay and given access to self-feeders. The feeders contain a 40-part oats and 60-part barley ration, fortified with one per cent bone meal and three-quarters-per-cent cobalt-iodine salt.

Cattle are trucked to P.A. when they are in such condition that they are expected to make red or blue brand. Sixty-nine head shipped recently killed out at 20 red, 37 blue, 11 commercial and only one plain.

Last fall Fred and Albert bought about 90 spring calves, and are wintering them on hay and light feedings of grain. They will be on grass next summer and go into the fall feedlot.

"We want to give it a try," commented Albert. "When we buy in



Albert Pugh (r) innoculates for blackleg feeders that have just arrived at farm from stockyards; Fred daubs on paint to record which have been done.



How you can hit real pay dirt* with the world's most popular spreader

YOU MAY BE AN EXCEPTION—but most farmers lose from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the profit possible from barnyard manure. Good management plus modern NEW IDEA equipment can easily double profits from manure.

There's No Mystery About It

Here's how to handle manure for top profits: (1) Capture the liquid portion with plenty of bedding and paved feedlots. (2) Spread manure as soon as possible after it is produced. Use equipment designed to really spread. (3) Put manure on fields growing your highest income crops.

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One of the main reasons why there are more NEW IDEA spreaders on farms today than any other make is their ability to spread thinly and uniformly. For

highest value, manure should be spread thinly and frequently — 4 to 5 tons per acre.

Staggered U-shaped shredding teeth, rotating at high speed, tear up even the toughest, hardest-packed manure. Cleverly designed distributor paddles lay the finely shredded manure down in a wide, even pattern — a pattern which extends several feet beyond the width of the spreader.

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Because you have your choice of 4 spreader sizes at your NEW IDEA Dealer's, you needn't over or under-equip your manure handling operation. Pick the spreader to fit your farm from among the 65 bu., 75 bu., and 90 bu. ground-driven models, or the big 120 bu. PTO job.

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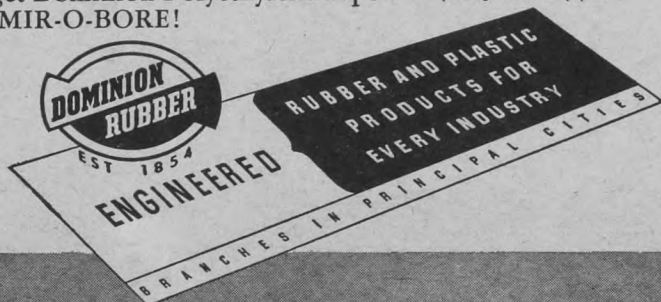
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EASY TO JOIN

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LIVESTOCK

October and sell in March or April there is often too little gain in weight and the margin may be very narrow. When we buy and sell in a matter of months the cost of yarding, trucking, testing, vaccinating and auction charges runs up to a cent a pound. These costs would be cut with calves."

One hundred and sixty acres of the farm are in a brome-alfalfa-crested wheatgrass mixture. This quarter-section provides grass for summer grazing and hay for winter feeding.

The short haul between farm and market helps the Pugh brothers to make some extra money. If cattle drop in price they can be bidding on cattle in the auction ring in the length of time required for a phone call and a fast 25-mile drive. If the market suggests that they should be selling, they can have stock into the auction ring an hour-and-a-half after they decide it would be smart to ship.

This really showed up the year of the foot-and-mouth outbreak. While some feeders were working hard to earn a ten-cent-a-pound loss, the Pughs succeeded in selling within one-and-one-half cents of what they paid. With an offsetting gain in weight they held their losses down.

They also hold their labor costs down, which is another way of saying that they are not slaves to the herd. They keep their freedom by bedding in and around a large, open-sided, pole and straw shelter, which takes little time. The hay, which is stacked in the field in the summer, they load with a front-end loader onto a very large, low rack, haul it to the side of the feedlot, unload it with the fork and, still using the fork, move daily requirements into the large feed bunks. Whole grain is mixed into the truck box and ground directly into the self-feeder. They pump water by throwing an electric switch. There is no winter manure hauling.

Some periodic jobs, such as hauling in a week's supply of hay or chopping grain, may take all day, but the regular, daily chores around the herd are cleaned up in half an hour.

The grain farming is dovetailed with the cattle feeding. The screenings from the registered wheat makes fine cattle feed; the grass crops help to control weeds; oats and barley grow well on fields not in hay or wheat, and provide feed for the cattle at a reasonable cost.

There are no hogs on the farm. The time was when they kept 10 to 12 sows. "We dropped the hogs when rhinitis got into the bunch," one of the boys commented. "I guess we'd have dropped them anyway: we couldn't seem to get hog raising up to the level of efficiency that we thought we needed."

A walk around the farm demonstrates that the Pughs "need" a high level of efficiency. Efficiency is the watchword on this farm.—R.H. V

De-worming Dairy Herds

WORM infections in dairy herds can mean high feed bills and reduced production. An easy, safe, and inexpensive way to get rid of these parasites, reports the University of Wisconsin, is to feed small amounts



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LIVESTOCK

of phenothiazine every day. Phenothiazine can be given in either concentrates, or regular feeds, and will not harm milk quality. For dairy herds, long-term treatment using small quantities is preferable to large doses; two grams daily for each calf or yearling is the effective dose. Cost of treatment is less than one-fifth of a cent per animal per day, and is more than paid for by greater weight gains and more efficient feed use. ✓

Sixty Cattle Graze 20 Acres

GRASS and hay are important crops on the 400-acre irrigated farm of W. L. McGillivray, at Coaldale, Alberta. He has found livestock an essential part of the farm program, even in a district that has become famous for its rich cash crops like sugar beets and canning vegetables. He has been pasturing about 60 head of purebred Angus cattle (cows, calves and yearlings) on 20 acres which have been down to grass for many years. Fertilized in the spring with about 100 pounds per acre of 11-48-0 and irrigated during the summer, the field provides grazing for about three months. Another 12 acres of a spring fertilized blue grass-timothy-brome-alfalfa mixture provide an early cut of hay and pasture later on, while 45 acres of fertilized alfalfa and brome provide through two cuts the remaining hay required to winter the herd of 100 head.

Admitting that his pasture field has been down too long for maximum yields, he seeded 35 acres to a new permanent pasture mixture of brome (7 pounds), orchard grass (7 pounds), creeping red fescue (5 pounds), and white dutch clover (2 pounds), last summer. He anticipates even better results from this field.—D.R.B. ✓

Extra Pounds Can Be Costly

INTERESTING and useful information on the varying costs of gain on cattle of different weights has been revealed by recent investigations by Dr. Frank Whiting at the Lethbridge Experimental Station. Most stockmen are fully aware that it costs more to add 100 pounds to the weight of a 1,000-pound steer than it does to one weighing 500 pounds, but many feeders may not realize how great a difference exists.

Forty-four choice calves were fed a two-to-one ration of grain to hay. The hay was two-thirds alfalfa and one-third crested wheatgrass, and the grain, 35 per cent barley, 34 per cent oats, 15 per cent dried beet pulp, 10 per cent linseed oilmeal, five per cent molasses and one-half per cent each of salt and bonemeal. The animals were fed individually, and slaughtered when they reached 900 pounds.

Feed required for 100 pounds of gain increased as the weight of the animal increased, a result fully expected. However, it was perhaps surprising that it cost 37 per cent more to increase a steer's weight from 800 pounds to 900 pounds than it did to increase it from 400 to 500 pounds. Dr. Whiting reports that in previous feeding tests at Lethbridge it cost about 20 per cent more to raise a steer

from 900 to 1,000 pounds, than to raise it from 800 to 900 pounds.

Statistics of the experiment revealed that the daily average gain of a steer from 400 to 500 pounds was 1.65 pounds, using 636 pounds of feed at a cost of \$11.66 per 100 pounds of gain. Comparable figures from 500 to 600 pounds were 1.83 pounds of daily gain, using 682 pounds of feed at a cost of \$12.48. For 600 to 700 pounds the corresponding figures were: two pounds, 752 pounds and \$13.80; for 700 to 800 pounds, 2.04 pounds, 814 pounds and \$14.90; and for 800 to 900 pounds, 2.13 pounds, 872 pounds and \$16.

Although the rate of gain increased with increases in weight, the cost of the gain went up more than proportionally. ✓

Overgrazing Reduces Native Grass Growth

WHEN native pastures are overgrazed the very high yielding, palatable grasses are frequently displaced by weeds and low-yielding, unpalatable sorts.

A study conducted by the Pasture Division, Experimental Station, Swift Current, Sask., illustrates the decline in productivity of overgrazed pastures. In three heavily grazed pastures, the palatable grasses were reduced by 28, 39 and 55 per cent, and the average potential grass yield was reduced from 887 to 514 pounds per acre.

Native grass pastures should be stocked at rates which ensure continued seed production and general productivity of bluejoint, speargrass and Junegrass. This is accomplished by leaving about half of the average, annual production uneaten. The saying "eat half and leave half, and the half you leave will get bigger and bigger" has been found a sound guide for native pasture management. ✓

Lean-Type Hog For the U.S.

PATRONS of United States cafes will frequently find "Canadian Bacon" featured on their breakfast menu. Enquiry reveals that this is not bacon imported from Canada. It is lean back bacon.

A demand by U.S. housewives for leaner pork, coupled with mounting surpluses of animal fats, is pushing American swine producers toward a more meaty-type hog.

In keeping with this trend, animal husbandmen of the United States Department of Agriculture are collecting information by means of a field research program and are attempting to develop methods of identifying superior meat-type breeds. The objective of the program is to determine, first, how closely estimates of the fatness and conformation of live hogs will check with the cut-out weights after slaughter, and second, to what extent these characteristics are transmitted to the progeny.

Canadian breeders are interested to observe that these same problems faced the Canadian industry in their early efforts to produce Wiltshire sides for the British market, and were partly, at least, resolved through rail grading and Advanced Registry. ✓

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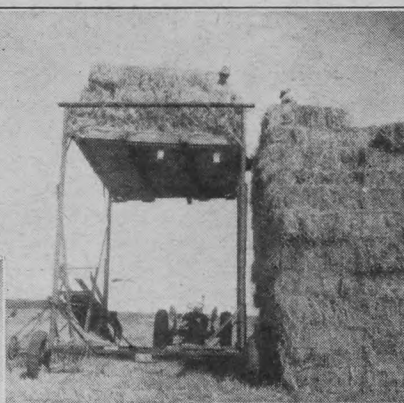
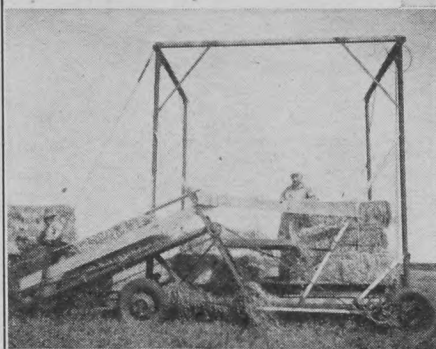
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FIELD

Home-Made Bale Pick-Up



Ingenious Manitoba farmer develops his own bale pick-up and stacker

Picking up bales in the field, left, and on right lifting them to stack height.

WHEN milking cows you probably use your hands, but your mind remains free for heavy thinking. Ed Rempel, at Fortier, Manitoba, 35 miles to the west of Winnipeg, who milks 17 cows, must put his milking time to good use, judging by the idea he conceived and developed.

Whether he planned it when he was doing the milking or not, Rempel designed and built his own bale pick-up and stacker. Not only does his creation step up the speed of bale collecting and stacking, but it eliminates most of the heavy back work.

In its broad essentials the machine is a platform on four wheels, with a pick-up on the side. The pick-up picks the bales from the field and raises them to shoulder height on the side of the platform. A man on the platform lifts them off the pick-up and loads up to 45 bales on the platform. When this has been done the outfit is run to the stack, the power take-off started, the platform floor raised to any height up to 14 feet, and the bales are then shifted onto the stack.

Although effective, the outfit is not complicated. The pick-up is an ordinary chute, and a single chain with Gehl forage harvester links runs the bales up it. Power to drive it comes from a 15-inch diameter sprocket fastened to one of the wheels on the outfit, chained to a five-inch sprocket. By direct coupling this five-inch sprocket drives a 15-inch V-pulley connected by a V-belt to a seven-inch pulley on the pick-up. This combination runs the pick-up a little faster than the ground speed of the outfit.

The main frame of the outfit is built of angle iron and welded braces. Predictions that the strains from moving it over rough fields would break the weld joints have so far—after picking

up 4,300 bales—proved to be unfounded.

The platform is lifted by means of steel cables fastened to its four corners. The cables are fastened to the top corners of the main frame, run down through a pulley bolted to the platform, back up through a pulley at the top of the main frame, down again and turned 90 degrees around a pulley on the frame below the platform and fastened to a four-inch pipe that extends the full length of the outfit.

This pipe is connected through two chains and step-down sprockets to the tractor power take-off. When the p.t.o. is started the pipe turns and the steel cables are wound around it. As the pipe keeps turning and the cables wind onto it, each of the four cables runs through its three pulleys and the platform goes up. When it has reached the desired height, it is held up by dropping a toggle iron—fastened to the frame—into a lugged wheel fastened rigidly to the steel pipe.

Ed Rempel got the idea of building a bale-lifter from seeing seed bags on a lift in a Portage la Prairie seed plant. With \$1,000 worth of ingenuity and \$280 of hard cash he built a portable modification suitable for the farm.

Like most ingenious people he is still not satisfied. The car front wheel assemblies on the front corners do not turn through a sharp enough angle, and another time he says he would build on two wheels. He would also make some changes in the pick-up.

In the meantime the outfit does the work of three men in haying time. "Two of us can stack up to 150 bales an hour with this rig; a job that used to take five men when we hoisted by hand," commented Ed.—R. H.

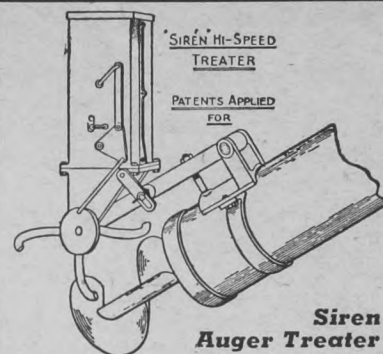
Should I Grow Selkirk Wheat?

Recommended varieties, such as Thatcher, are likely to outyield Selkirk, except in southeastern Saskatchewan, or other similar rust areas

by J. B. HARRINGTON

THE big question in the minds of many farmers at the present time is: Should I sow Selkirk wheat? Selkirk is the only approved variety of bread

wheat resistant to Race 15B of stem rust. There is only enough seed to sow two million to three million acres and in western Canada we seed about 25



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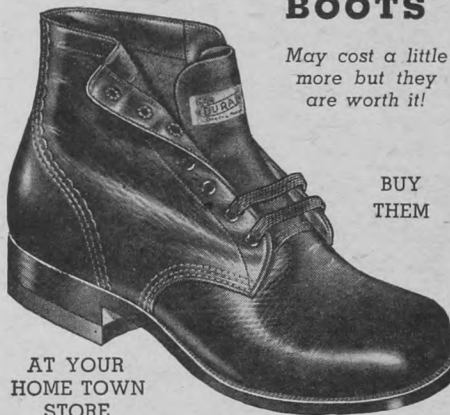
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FIELD

million acres of wheat annually. It is obvious that in 1955, Selkirk should be grown largely in the areas most subject to rust attack, namely southeastern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba. However, many farmers to the north and west of this area have sought and obtained seed of this variety. Are they taking the correct action? To answer this question we should review briefly what happened in 1954.

In 1954 the western Canadian wheat crop, particularly in Saskatchewan, suffered tremendous loss from rust, and farmers found that Thatcher and other true and faithful money makers of the past two decades had behaved badly. They are susceptible to Race 15B of stem rust which rampaged through most of the wheat growing areas of Saskatchewan and Manitoba in 1954. Leaf rust ran riot through these areas also, and, in a wide diagonal swath through Saskatchewan, did far more damage than the stem rust.

This was not only totally unexpected, but the odds against its occurrence were very high. How did it happen? There was an almost perfect combination of conditions for the development of a disastrous rust epidemic. The plant pathologist will tell you that three conditions are necessary for an epidemic: Plenty of susceptible host material; plenty of the spores of the disease organism; and weather conditions which favor infection of the host and the growth and spread of the organism. These conditions existed: the spring was late and the crop was sown very late; a strong, steady wind blew from the south for three days at the end of the first week in June and deposited untold billions of spores of leaf rust, and also of Race 15B of stem rust over western Canada. This performance was repeated two weeks later. The weather continued coolish with showers and breezes throughout the summer. The crop grew slowly, and the rust had ideal conditions in which to grow on susceptible material. Thatcher, which is very susceptible to leaf rust, occupied millions of acres, and other susceptible varieties occupied nearly all of the rest of the wheat acreage.

WHAT about 1955? In the first place the chance of a year like 1954 recurring is extremely small. Secondly, since there is only enough seed of Selkirk wheat to sow two million to three million acres, this should be located largely in Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan. Thirdly, under non-rust conditions, Thatcher outyields Selkirk in central and western Saskatchewan and for some 18 years has been a remarkably successful variety. It is still capable of giving most of the farmers of Saskatchewan and Alberta better returns than they can get from any other variety.

If I were a farmer in southeastern Saskatchewan including the Regina Plains, I would acquire all the Selkirk seed that I could get at a reasonable price, and I would sow it. In the other parts of Saskatchewan, I would use Thatcher or one of the other recommended varieties, trying as far as possible to get reasonably plump seed of good vitality. In southeastern Saskatchewan I would regard Lee as a



WD or WD-45 11-run drill holds 5 bushels of grain and 400 pounds of fertilizer. Grass seed attachment (extra equipment) holds 18 pounds.

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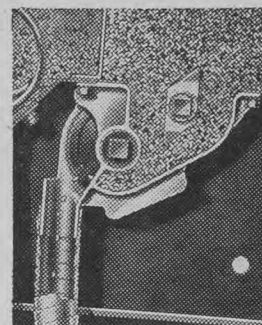
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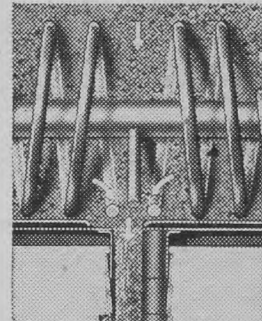
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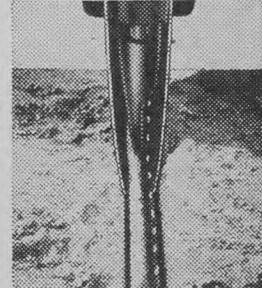
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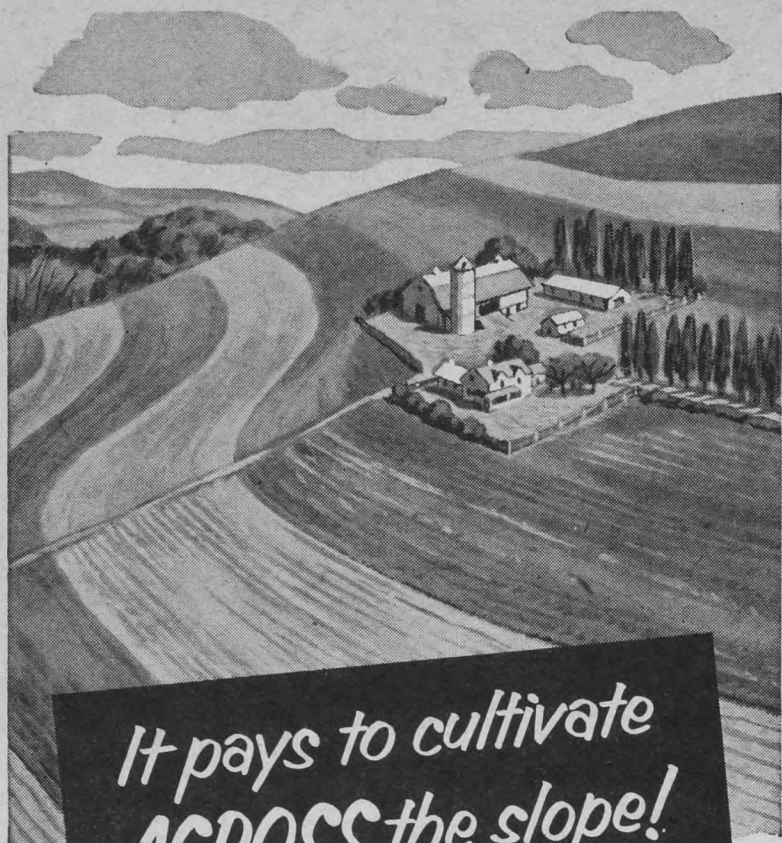
New **TWIN-BOOT** dispensers are used with either single or double disc openers to place seed and fertilizer in separate bands for quick crop response . . . no injury to seedlings.



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FIELD

second choice to Selkirk, and Thatcher as a third choice, to be sown early if possible. These are the 1955 recommendations of the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Grain Crops.

I understand that many farmers of the western and northern cereal variety zones of Saskatchewan have ordered seed of Selkirk, and perhaps already obtained the seed. Most of these people are intending to grow the Selkirk for seed, either to sell or to use as seed in 1956. However, the largest yields of Selkirk are likely to be in the moister areas. Also the greatest need for Selkirk is in southeastern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba. Therefore, insofar as Selkirk is grown in 1955 outside the area of greatest hazard, the value of Selkirk to Canada will be reduced. In addition, Thatcher growers who grow Selkirk in 1955 in the zones of Saskatchewan where it is not recommended by the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Grain Crops are likely to find their yields per acre smaller than on comparable fields of Thatcher.

We must remember that the leaf rust and stem rust spores produced in western Canada by the billions in 1954 have nothing to do with the development of a rust epidemic in 1955. To have a rust epidemic in 1955 the highly unusual coincidence of circumstances that occurred in 1954 would have to be repeated. That is most unlikely.

I think that Thatcher and the other recommended varieties susceptible to Race 15B and to leaf rust will continue to serve us well, except in the areas which have in the past been most susceptible to rust attack.

(Note: Dr. J. B. Harrington is head of the Field Husbandry Department, University of Saskatchewan, and chairman of the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Grain Crops.—ed.)

Danger of Increased Soil Drifting

IF dry weather and high winds combine next spring in western Manitoba, we could have a worse soil drifting situation than we had in the worst of the '30's," D. A. Brown, assistant superintendent, Brandon Experimental Farm, told the Manitoba Agronomists Conference, which met recently in Winnipeg.

"We are increasingly concerned over the amount of land that goes into the winter bare," the speaker told the conference. Summerfallow and fall plowing can both be bare, and are both vulnerable to soil drifting. Trash cover will help to hold the soil, but too frequently the trash has either been covered, or has broken up before fall.

There was widespread soil drifting in the spring of 1954. Mr. Brown expressed the view that there is likely to be some trouble as long as fields are large. Moreover, dry years would make the trouble worse, because stubble would not be heavy enough for a good trash cover.

In the meantime, due at least in part to the widespread use of the combine, summerfallow acreages are increasing, and now account for approximately one-third of the cropland in Manitoba

each year. In the area south from Winnipeg to the U.S. border and west to Morden the percentage of summerfallow has increased from 21 per cent in 1930 to 26 per cent in 1953. The increase has been even greater in other parts of the province.

"The problem of saving the rich soil of Manitoba is accelerating rather than decreasing. With new and improved machinery we should be doing a better job of holding the soil; instead we are doing a worse job," concluded the speaker.

Cleaner Flax Crops

FLAX is a notoriously weedy crop. The practice of seeding on breaking is long established, and it is always well to seed flax on the cleanest land on the farm. Cereal crops, such as wheat, oats and barley, grow strongly enough to choke out some weeds, but flax is helpless in the face of weed competition, and has to accept the moisture and nutrients that the weeds leave.

Weedy flax crops can be cleaned up to some degree with 2,4-D. Some damage will be done to the flax, but this is likely to be more than offset by killing weeds. It should be borne in mind that 2,4-D will delay the maturing date of the flax, so if the crop is late, and could run into frost in the fall, it may be better not to spray.

Flax is least susceptible to injury in the early seedling stage. Very severe damage is caused if 2,4-D is applied when flax is in the bud to early bloom stage of growth.

Either the amine or ester of 2,4-D can be used, but the former is preferred as it is likely to do less damage to the flax. The dosage recommended is three to five ounces of acid equivalent per acre. This will destroy such weeds as stinkweed, mustard, lamb's quarters and pigweed. More resistant weeds may not be killed and for their control, dosages can be increased. The fact should be borne in mind that too heavy dosages may damage the crop and do more harm than the weeds would have done.

Colored Seeds Of Legumes

ALFALFA and red clover seed that contains colored kernels is not grown that way; the colored ones were dyed to warn Canadian farmers that this seed was not raised in Canada but is of foreign origin, and may not be well suited to Canadian conditions of growth.

This seed is stained under the provisions of the Canada Seeds Act. Some seeds are colored red to indicate that the particular lot of imported seed is not likely to have sufficient winter hardiness for our conditions. Green, methyl violet and black dyes are used on some seeds to indicate doubtful adaptation to Canadian conditions.

Only a small proportion of the seeds are dyed. However, the Canada Department of Agriculture advises that the safest seed to plant in this country is that which contains no colored seed, and so is of Canadian origin.

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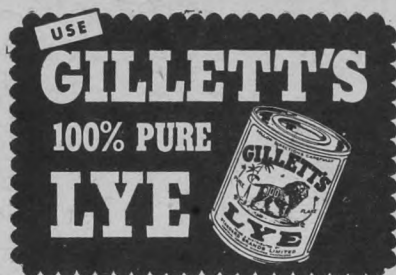
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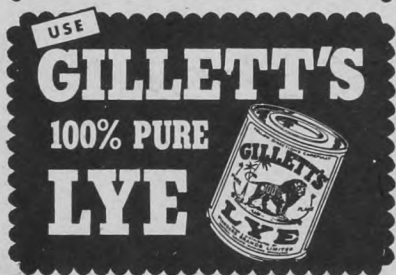
Disinfectants Work Better

In some instances of disease a specific disinfectant may be recommended. Yet, however powerful—and costly—such a disinfectant may be, it cannot kill unless it contacts the germs or parasites in question, and they are usually protected by grease and dirt. Lye cleaning removes this protective coating and permits disinfectants to operate efficiently.

Slaughter Houses

Lye is a great help in cleaning the slaughter house. Before swabbing down the floors, dissolve 3 tablespoons of Gillett's Lye in each gallon of water. This solution will greatly speed the removal of blood, dirt and other matter. It also deodorizes and sanitizes. It enables a single solution to be used for the complete cleansing job.

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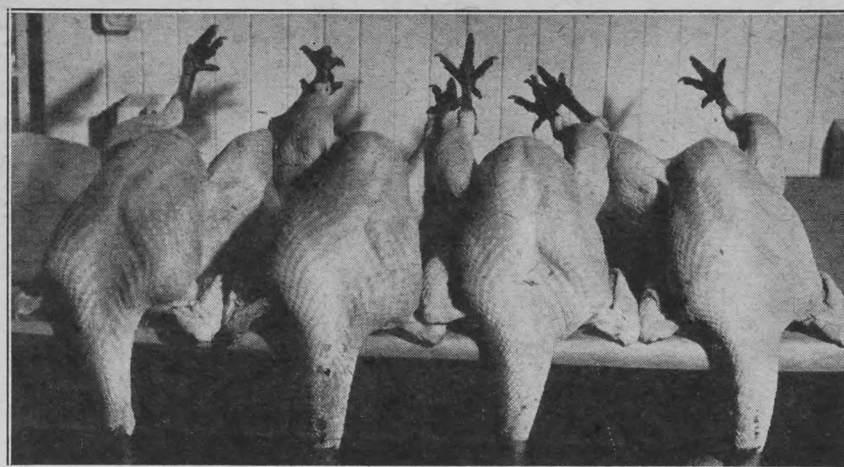
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POULTRY



These improved bronze turkeys are the result of ten years of research at the University of Saskatchewan.

New Turkeys For Average Family

IT might seem out of place to talk about turkeys so early in the new year. On the other hand, this is a new turkey, and if it fulfills the hopes of its breeders, it will be able to make its debut later on at the proper season.

We all know the huge, Broad-Breasted Bronze turkey is a dandy bird for the festive dinner. That's when Uncle George, Aunt Minnie, and half a dozen assorted relatives are on hand to help you eat it. Of course, if your family is short of Uncle Georges and Aunt Minnies, you'll just have to make up your mind to eat turkey for a week. But what about the rest of the year when you feel like a turkey dinner, but don't want to go on a steady turkey diet?

After ten years of research, the poultry department of the University of Saskatchewan believes it has the answer. An improved bronze turkey which they have developed through intensive inbreeding from two standard bronze types of better-than-average meat qualities, donated by L. H. Sanderson of Piapot, Saskatchewan. The new strain is well-fleshed and moderately sized. In fact, just what the average family has wanted for a long time. Female birds run from 12 to 14 pounds, and toms, from 18 to 22 pounds. They are very uniform in type and weight, low-set and compact in form, and have long keels.

Only a small, selected breeding flock has been retained by the university, the balance has been killed, examined, and marketed so as to measure the success of the breeding program. On inspection, these graded "special," or "A" for conformation and fleshing, and no deformities were found in the entire flock.

Next step in the program is to determine the feed efficiency of the new strain. Growers must have birds with a high feed efficiency in order to make a reasonable profit on their operations. The department plans to test the new, improved bronze stock for one more season. If the birds continue to remain true to type for that period, breeding stock will be available for interested breeders sometime next fall.

Aureomycin Aids Production

EGG production may be improved almost 40 per cent by the addition of aureomycin (chlortetracycline)

at high levels to the diet of laying hens. In experiments at Iowa State College, three test groups of New Hampshire pullets were confined to cages for four months and fed identical, nutritionally adequate diets. The decline in production was unusually rapid in all three groups. Then aureomycin was added to the diet of the two lowest-producing flocks at the rate of 50 milligrams per pound of feed. Over the next two months, egg production of these birds increased by 40 per cent, while that of the untreated group remained at the same low level. Also noted was an improvement in the general health of the hens receiving the special treatment.

Force-Molting With Hormones

WHEN a hen molts in order to develop a new crop of feathers it means she will have to drop and replace over 10,000 of them. This puts such a strain on the bird, egg production falls drastically, or stops altogether. If molting takes place when egg prices are high, or during winter months when breeders need eggs for hatching, the latter are hit heavily in the pocketbook—a painful place in these days of lowered farm income.

Because of this, scientists have been studying the best way to control bird molting time so that producers will be able to get maximum production at the best time of the year. A promising new force-molting method, developed by the University of Wisconsin, uses progesterone, a hormone produced from the ovary of animals. It can be given in feed, implanted as a pellet, or injected as a solution.

During their tests, it was found that birds treated in the latter part of June had completed their molting by the first of September. In order to determine how fast and complete the molt had been, white hens were dipped in blue fountain pen ink with a little added detergent so the ink would penetrate. By checking the ratio of old blue to new white feathers, it was possible to follow the molting process closely.

One advantage progesterone has over other force-molting methods is that birds appear to suffer no ill effects from the treatment. Older methods, such as withholding feed and water, generally caused chickens to lose too much weight. Further work will be undertaken at the university to test the possible effects of the hormone on eggs laid after treatment.

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POULTRY

Efficiency Pays Dividends

SMALL fluctuations in the price of poultry products or feeds can greatly affect a producer's profits. Those who can supply premium markets, or have flocks with high egg-laying rates, have a big edge over their competitors.

For example, suppose a hen produces 15 dozen eggs a year on 100 pounds of feed, and because of their higher quality, the producer is able to get one cent per dozen more for them over the regular market price. That 15-cent increase in income on 100 pounds of feed is equal to a \$3.00 per ton saving in feed costs. On the other hand, supposing a man's hens have greater inherent laying qualities, and lay ten eggs more per bird per year than those of his neighbors. At 30 cents per dozen, those ten eggs would amount to a 25-cent income gain on 100 pounds of feed, or an equivalent of about \$5.00 a ton saving in the cost of grain.

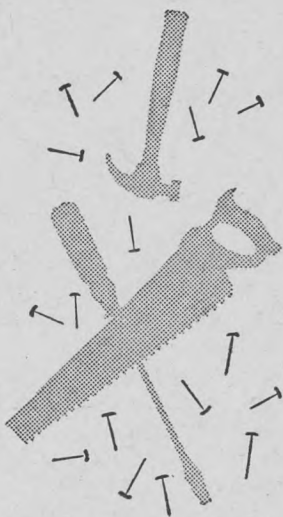
Poultrymen who insist on high quality stock, and follow the tenets of good feeding and management, can gain these advantages, plus the added bonus of lower flock mortality. As these advantages are largely man-made, they are within the reach of every operator. ✓

Avian Leukosis

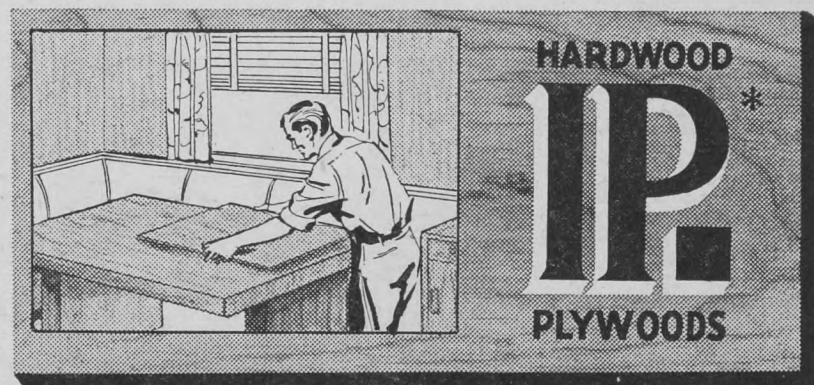
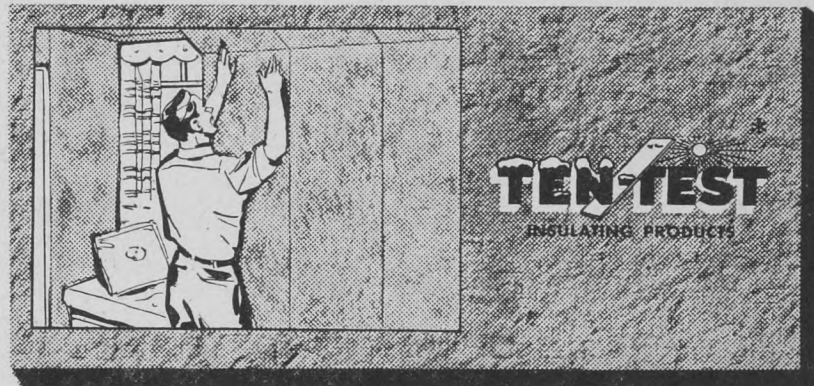
THE malignant tumor disease of birds, known as avian leukosis, is hard to detect and has no cure, states Dr. A. Savage, Provincial Animal Pathologist for Manitoba. There is no simple blood test for leukosis, as for pullorum disease for example. Diagnosis is unsatisfactory in the living bird, and carriers cannot be detected. Although it is a virus disease, there is as yet no method of effective vaccination for leukosis as for acute virus diseases such as Newcastle. Leukosis is chronic, and against diseases of that nature vaccination offers little hope.

If diagnosis, medication, and vaccination are ineffective, what then is the answer? The only present answer is to control the disease through proper selection and management. Although young birds are most susceptible to it, not all young birds will take the disease, even when exposed, because of a definite inherited resistance. Disease is not the same thing as the presence of infection—it is the result of a conflict between infection and resistance, in which the latter loses the battle. By a combination of selective breeding and good sanitation it is possible to raise birds that are essentially free of leukosis.

Birds subject to the disease are not likely to reach their second year of production because nature will cull them automatically. Hatching eggs selected from resistant stock such as second-season layers, therefore, are liable to be more or less free of the disease. A high level of general resistance can be maintained in the resulting chicks by cleanliness, good feeding, and intelligent management that avoids parasites and overcrowding, and practices remorseless culling of unsatisfactory birds. ✓



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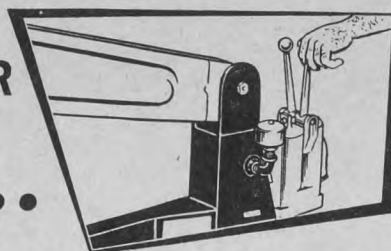
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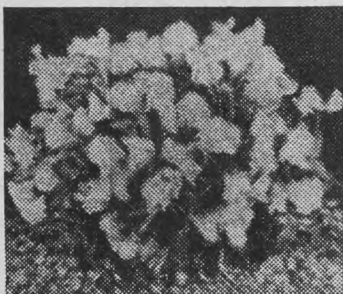
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HORTICULTURE



The Beauty crabapple tree on the left and the eight-year-old apple tree on the right, illustrate the value of hardiness in prairie fruit varieties. Both trees were growing at the University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Use Good Vegetable Seed

A NOTE from the University of Wisconsin urges the importance of sowing good quality vegetable seed,—in fact, the very best that can be obtained. Moreover, order your seeds as soon after February 15 as you can.

The area of the average farm vegetable garden is so small that the extra cost of really good seed, if any, is not worth much consideration.

You may have saved some vegetable seeds from the garden last fall, but if these are planted the results may be very disappointing. Some of these vegetable seeds may carry diseases, and others may really be cross-bred seeds and therefore give disappointing results.

If you have some seed carried over from 1954 and never used, it will probably give you fairly good results, if it has been stored well, except for onion, parsnip and sweet corn. The seed, however, should be sown somewhat thicker than usual; and better yet, only after a germination test has been made ahead of planting time so that you can estimate the amount of seed required to provide a good stand of plants.

Extra Care Of House Plants

IN winter months, when the interiors of houses are usually kept at a fairly high temperature to satisfy the needs or preferences of human beings, it is often difficult to keep house plants healthy. P. D. McCalla, supervisor of horticulture, Alberta Department of Agriculture, says that the ideal temperature for most house plants is 60 to 65 degrees F., which is too cold for human comfort. One of two choices is possible: to keep the plants from suffering unduly the temperature of the house can be lowered at night, or, if convenient, the plants can be moved to a cooler room.

The air of houses is often too dry for best results with house plants. Under such circumstances, about the only recourse for the housewife, in addition to good general waterings as needed—once or twice a week—is to use either radiator trays, or evaporat-

ing pans, to increase the moisture in the air about the plants.

Mr. McCalla suggests that removing dead leaves, flowers and seed pods promptly, reduces the danger of disease and helps to keep the plants flourishing. They should also get a little plant food at three to four-week intervals.

What Trees For the Prairies

WINTER hardiness and drought resistance impose pretty severe restrictions on the list of trees from which prairie tree planters may select for planting. Unfortunately, it is not possible to specifically measure either the hardiness or the drought resistance of individual kinds, to produce a result suitable for our conditions.

John Walker, superintendent, Forest Nursery Station, Indian Head, Saskatchewan, suggests that for general purpose planting, whether for wind-break, ornament, or the production of wood in the drier areas of the prairies, ash and elm should be selected. Caragana is very satisfactory under these conditions for shelterbelts, and box elder, or Manitoba maple, will also be suitable for those who like it. If properly cared for, the white spruce, Colorado spruce and Scotch pine among the evergreens, may be expected to survive.

In regions with more moisture, and particularly where trees may be irrigated or flooded occasionally, poplar and willow will succeed.

Caragana is a necessary part of most farm shelterbelts, because it gives protection near the ground level. Most popular are single-row field shelterbelts containing both caragana and other broadleaved trees. Mr. Walker thinks that Siberian elm is promising for field shelterbelt planting. One of the reasons for recommending a mixture of trees is that serious damage by specific pests is less likely to occur, and the faster growing species also provide early shelter.

The best idea, before actually ordering trees, is to write to either of the forest nursery stations at Indian Head, or Sutherland, Saskatchewan, for recommended varieties and a suggested mixture suitable to your area.

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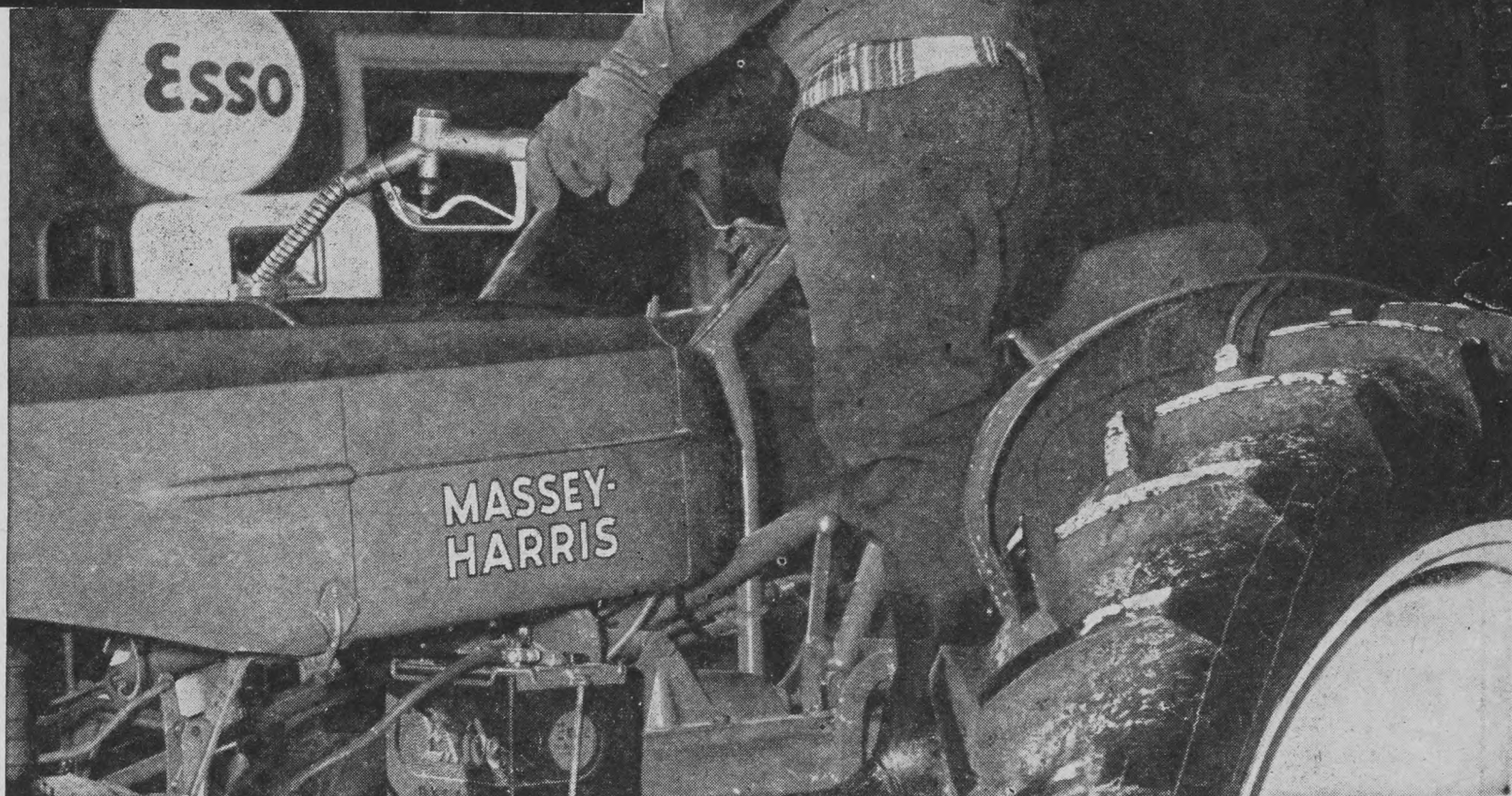
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FARM YOUNG PEOPLE



Club members learn to grow top quality crops. Seen here are Rose Gretchen and Elmer Kereluk of the Meleb Potato Club receiving the 1954 Grand Aggregate Trophy of the Manitoba Vegetable Growers' Association from Mr. Walter Kroecker.

Parents Learn Through Youth Clubs

Farm youth club members help bring improved methods to the home farms

YOUNG people who engage in 4-H club work are not only training themselves, they help bring improved agricultural and homemaking practices to Dad and Mother on the home farm. New varieties of grain, new techniques of food preservation, better soil management, modern methods of weed and insect control, and the advantages of registered livestock have been brought to the attention of the individual farm family on a scale never achieved before, just because some member became interested in a 4-H project.

Perhaps John or Betty joined a grain or potato club, and through the planting of registered and certified seed on his place for the first time, Dad was given a practical demonstration of how top quality seed pays off at the harvest. Along with the seed, the youngsters brought a recommended program of cultivation, and explained how the latest scientific findings could be applied to give a better crop, and at the same time increase soil fertility.

Maybe they joined a calf, swine, or poultry club, and by the selection of qualified foundation stock, backed by the use of chemicals for disease prevention and control, showed how to produce a higher quality product and thereby increase farm revenue. Farming today is becoming a highly specialized business, they pointed out; in order to meet competition they would have to run the place as efficiently as possible, and that meant keeping accurate records and studying market requirements too. Dad couldn't let the young folks show him up, so he did a little reading himself, and a good deal of the facts took root.

More recent developments in 4-H club work have been in the soil management, farm electrification, farm machinery, and farm safety fields. Through films and practical demonstrations, members have been learning how to detect fire and accident hazards, and the fundamentals of safe

farm machinery handling. They are being taught systematic crop rotation, care of the farm woodlot, reforestation, contour farming, and soil testing. In the latter, they learn how to take a soil sample, and on return of the analysis, how to purchase and apply the recommended fertilizer. All this, in time, will have its effect on the home farm, on agriculture, and on the nation. V

Novel 4-H Ring

WHEN grain club member Joan Whitehead of Grasswood, Saskatchewan, broke the clasp on her 4-H pin she had a novel idea. She took the pin and an old ring to a jeweller and had the 4-H crest fastened to the ring. Now she has an attractive 4-H ring that brings many interested comments wherever she goes. The cost of the job was only \$1.75. Joan finds the ring handier than the pin because she can wear it all the time without the bother of having to remove it when she changes from one outfit to another. V

Wins Essay Award

A GRADE XI student, David Remus of Emerson, Manitoba, recently won the top award in an essay contest sponsored by the North Central Weed Control Conference. Title of the essay was "How We Keep Weeds Under Control on Our Farm," and the piece was limited to 1,000 words. The contest was open to any 4-H club member under 21 years of age in 14 U.S. states, and the three Canadian prairie provinces.

The award entails a \$300 scholarship which the winner can use in any recognized agricultural college he chooses to attend. In addition to the main prize, David won the \$25 regional award for Manitoba, sponsored by the National Grain Company. V

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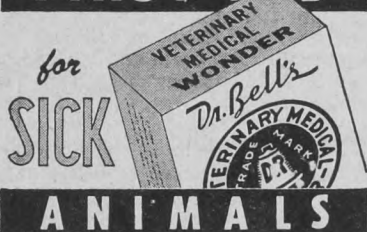
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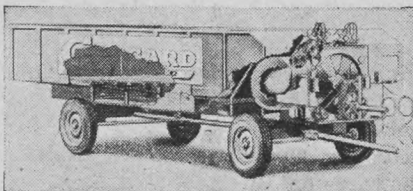
WHAT'S NEW



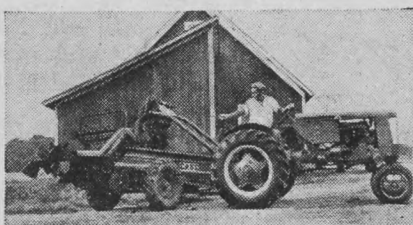
This small, riding, garden tractor is available in three and five h.p. models. It features a full-geared differential which is said to permit short turns. It has six forward and two reverse speeds. (Midland Co.) (65) ✓



The new, ten-key, 20-pound electric adding machine shown is claimed to be adapted to farms and dairies. The company asserts that a "mathematical automaton" makes multiplication and division almost as simple as addition and subtraction. (Clary Multiplier Corporation.) (66) ✓



This portable grain drier will, according to the manufacturer, take up to five per cent moisture out of 170 bushels in an hour. A large fan, driven by the tractor p.t.o., forces air heated by fuel oil burners through the grain. (Lakeshore Mfg. Co.) (67) ✓



Designed for fast hook-up, easy operation and low cost, this rear mounted loader is said to be ideal for manure handling and earth moving and scraping. It fits the Case "VAC" series tractors. (J. I. Case Co.) (68) ✓



Smooth, quiet, even baling is said to be achieved by this new Super 77 p.t.o. 12-ton-an-hour baler. Power requirement is a two-plow tractor. The baler features an over-running automotive type clutch. (New Holland Machine Co.) (69) ✓

For further information about any item mentioned in this column, write to What's New Department, The Country Guide, 290 Vaughan St., Winnipeg 2, giving the key number shown at the end of each item, as—(17).

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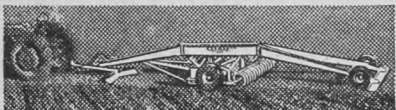
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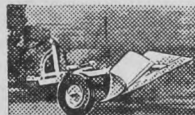
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"Ever since birth, I was subject to attacks of Chronic Bronchitis," writes Mr. Roy Jarvis, 1026 Dovercourt Rd., Toronto. "I coughed violently and wheezed a great deal. Then I learned about RAZ-MAH—and now I'm happy to say I've found relief."

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WORKSHOP

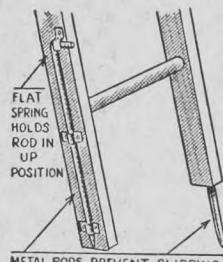
Midwinter Ideas For the Workshop

Readers send ideas for the use of the prairie handyman

Polarity Test. The polarity of a battery, or any other direct current device, can be determined by placing the leads from the two posts in a salt water solution. Bubbles will appear around the lead connected to the negative terminal.—O.T., Man. ✓



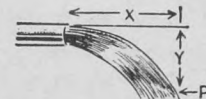
Slip-Proof Ladder. Pointed, metal rods, strapped to the sides of the ladder, as shown in the illustration, will eliminate all danger of the ladder slipping. In use the rods are driven into the ground, and at other times they are slipped up and held by the metal springs shown on the sides of the ladder.—H.E.F. ✓



Sanding Brush. A piece of sandpaper wrapped around a small scrubbing brush and held in place with a thick rubber band makes an excellent sander for use on irregular surfaces. The bristles have enough "give" to follow the curvature of the surface being sanded.—A.B., Sask. ✓



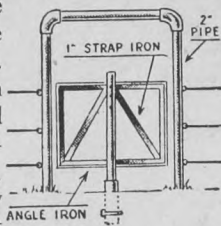
Water Flow Per Minute. To determine the number of gallons of water flowing per minute from a horizontal pipe, first measure the internal diameter of the pipe in inches, and multiply it by itself. Multiply this by the horizontal distance "X" (see sketch) to any chosen point "P" in inches. If the pipe is 2 inches and "X" 20 inches, you will have 4 x 20 equals 80; multiply 80 by the arbitrary figure 2.56, which equals 204.8, and, lastly, divide by the square root of the vertical distance "Y." If the distance "Y" is 25 inches the square root is 5, and dividing 204.8 by 5 we get 40.96 gallons, which is the flow per minute from the pipe. If the distance "P" is chosen so that "Y" will be 9, 16, 25, or 36 inches the square root can be easily taken. To convert gallons into cubic feet simply divide by 8.5.—W.F.S. ✓



Fruit Jar Opener. A piece of No. 8 galvanized fence wire shaped as illustrated and notched on the inside with a three-cornered file is very useful for taking the tops off jars. A smaller one will do for oil cans.—H.S. ✓



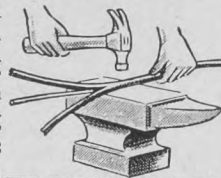
Rotating Gate. The illustration shows how this gate is constructed. The actual gate is three feet wide and two feet high. The angle iron frame is welded or bolted to a discarded steel axle, which fits snugly into a pipe that extends two feet below ground, and one foot above. A bolt put through this pipe as shown will establish the right height for the gate.—I.W.D. ✓



Staple Puller. An old monkey wrench can be modified to make an excellent staple puller. Remove the movable jaw, and grind the upper, fixed part to a claw on a grindstone. If ground to fit snugly into a staple, the implement (with a hammer to tap it in) can be used to take down a fence in a hurry.—A.P., Ont. ✓



Removing Insulation. I remove insulation from an electrical conductor by laying the wire on an anvil and tapping it all along its length with a hammer. This cuts the insulation and it can be readily peeled off.—O.T., Man. ✓



Nail Starting. When starting a tack, or a small nail, I find it useful to hold the head in a bobby pin, or with a pair of tweezers. This saves banged fingers.—V.I.S. ✓



Tip For Cane. My cane sank in deep snow, so I took off the rubber tip, bored a hole through it and into the stick, cut a heavy leather disk about 4 1/2 inches in diameter, put a two-inch washer above and below it and bolted the whole assembly to the tip. When I force the tip back onto the stick it is quite secure, and doesn't sink in snow.—R.I.N. ✓



Soldering Flux Brush. A brush for applying soldering flux can be made with a five-inch piece of 5/16-inch copper tubing, and some bristles from an old paint brush or a horse's tail. Push the bristles into the tubing, and flatten the end, as shown.—O.T., Man. ✓



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Lye Helps Many Ways In Farmhouse

There are dozens of ways in which lye speeds and eases work for the farmer's wife. Four of these are outlined below:

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These are a nuisance, unsanitary, and if neglected will result in costly plumber's bills. To unblock bad stoppages, put 3 tablespoons of Gillett's Lye down drain, followed by a cup of hot water, allow to stand. Repeat if necessary. To keep drains free-flowing pour down two tablespoons of lye each week, followed by a cup of water.

CLEANING STOVES

Lye is the natural enemy of greasy dirt that can gather and cake on and in stoves. To speed cleaning: scrub with a stiff brush and a solution of 2 tablespoons of lye to a gallon of water.

OUTHOUSES —

Sprinkle in half a cup of Gillett's Lye once a week. Helps dissolve contents and remove odors. Scrub premises with solution of 3 tablespoons per pail of water. Keeps out-houses spotless, sanitary, fly-free.

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First quality soap can be made for about 1¢ a big bar with lye. For best directions, see the label on the Gillett's Lye tin.

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Farming The Subsoil

NO farmer wants to farm subsoil, but he often has to. In some cases wind and water have eroded parts of his fields, or deep cuts and fills have been made in levelling the land for irrigation. If a soil is shallow (less than 24 to 30 inches to bedrock, sand, or gravel) any topsoil removal will result in a productivity loss which can only be partly restored by good soil management.

However, not all subsoils are unproductive. Where the profile is deep and uniform in texture, subsoil may be just as productive as topsoil after it has had the benefit of one or two years of irrigation. On the other hand, many "bald" spots of subsoil produce poorly, or remain barren, even after heavy applications of fertilizer. In that case the soil should be tested—there may be a deficiency of some minor element.

Bare spots in fields may be small, but the farmer has to pay the same water charges, taxes, and operating costs on them he does on more productive areas. Because of this, he is justified in spending more per acre in improving such areas than he could profitably spend on the field, or farm as a whole. He must diagnose the trouble, find a remedy, if possible, and use it.

Factors affecting root development and the uptake of plant foods are more favorable in topsoil. Because of its better physical condition it is more permeable to water and air. It also contains most of the organic matter and nitrogen, and soil minerals are more available. Remove the topsoil, and the plant is forced to feed on the subsoil, where poor tilth restricts water movement and root development. The latter is very important in the uptake of elements such as zinc or phosphorus, which move slowly in soil water.

ANOTHER cause of poor growth in subsoils is an actual deficiency of available plant foods. Nitrogen deficiency usually leads, with phosphate a close second. Some subsoils have an overabundance of some element, such as lime, which discourages plant growth, or an accumulation of sodium (alkali) on the soil clay, which causes it to swell and shed water when wetted. More serious on heavy soils than on light ones, is compaction by heavy equipment when the soil is too wet. This can generally be overcome by a couple of years of normal tillage.

Elimination of field bald spots is fairly easy in some cases and next to impossible in others. Poor physical conditions can generally be improved by the addition of organic matter. Heavy applications of manure and crop residues are favored over the growing of a green manure crop to plow under, because the latter will grow poorly for the same reason cash crops do. Making up soil mineral deficiencies, too, is fairly simple, once the element lacking is known; and exposed limy subsoils can be made productive with a little time and care. But bald alkali patches are a horse of another color. These need expert technical assistance, and are often next to impossible to improve. ✓

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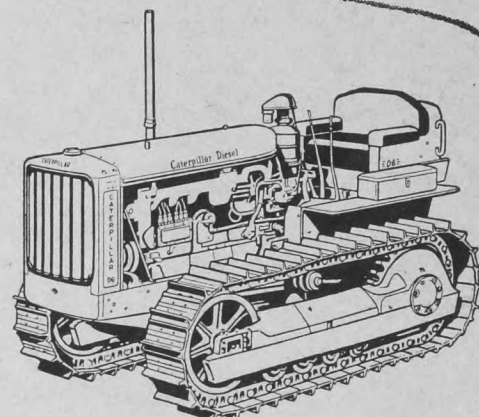
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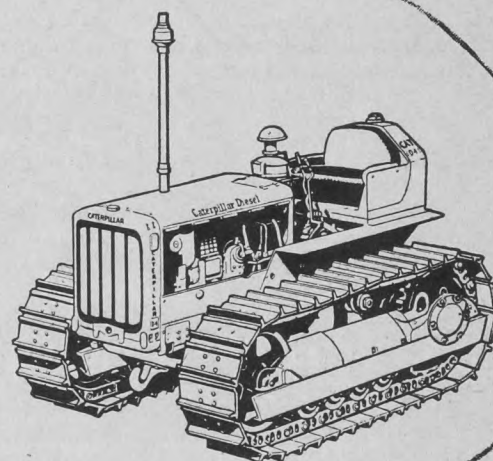
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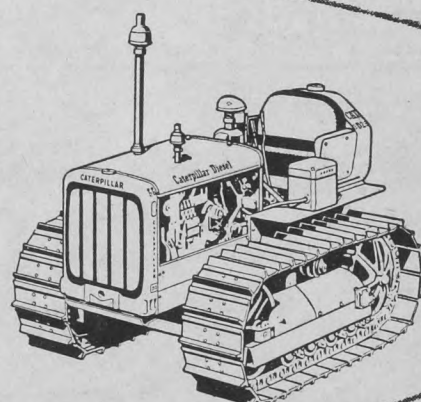
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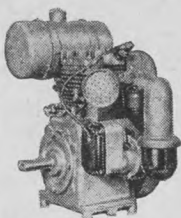
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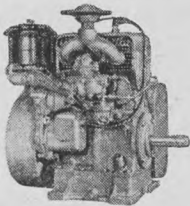
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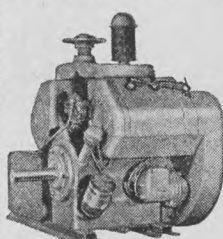
If you have any source of water supply available... a pond, shallow well, lake or stream... by all means investigate the increased yield and profit-possibilities of overhead irrigation. Ask your dealer about Wisconsin-powered overhead irrigation pumping units.



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MONTHLY

Canadian Grain Situation

Continued indications of a stronger overseas demand for milling grades of Canadian wheat and rumors of a revised estimate on deliverable quantities of coarse grain arouses sharp interest in the statistical side of the grain situation at the present time. Interest has not diminished as a result of a second price increase made effective by the Canadian Wheat Board.

Early in the new year the Board increased by one cent per bushel its selling price in the three top grades, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Northern with other grades and durums unchanged. No. 1 Northern basis Fort William-Port Arthur was quoted at \$1.72 and \$1.74 basis Vancouver.

Total commercial disappearance of the five principal grains—wheat, oats, barley, rye and flax is currently some 50 million bushels behind the figure for the same period of the 1953-54 crop year. The reduction is due to reduced exports of oats, barley and rye which, in any case, do not present a surplus problem this year.

Exports of oats and barley during the 1954-55 crop year are expected to fall far below the previous year's level. While U.S. import restrictions might be thought to have a deleterious effect on Canadian export figures, prevailing prices are not conducive to heavy movements across the border. At the present time it appears doubtful that Canada will have sufficient surplus quantities of these grains to fill the quotas now in effect.

Up to January 5 of the current crop year, only 5.2 million bushels of oats and 11.8 million bushels of barley had been exported to the United States. This compares with 36.9 and 19.7 million bushels respectively at the same date last year.

Wheat on the other hand, is showing a slight gain over last year when domestic disappearance and exports of wheat and wheat flour are considered in total. Exports of wheat and wheat flour at January 5, 1955, were approximately 2.8 million bushels below the figure for the same period last year. Total commercial disappearance, exports and domestic disappearance of the principal Canadian grain for the period August 1, 1954, to January 5, 1955, are compared with the movement during the corresponding period of the previous year in the following tables. All figures are in millions of bushels.

TOTAL COMMERCIAL DISAPPEARANCE Period August 1 to January 5

	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flax	Total
This year	147.7	35.4	56.3	4.0	3.1	246.5
Last year	146.0	67.5	69.7	12.4	4.4	300.0

EXPORTS OF CANADIAN GRAIN

	Wheat and Wheat Flour	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flax	Total
This year	120.1	13.3	38.9	3.3	1.4	177.0
Last year	122.9	46.5	55.9	11.8	2.5	239.6

DOMESTIC DISAPPEARANCE

	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flax	Total
This year	27.6	22.1	17.4	0.6	1.7	69.4
Last year	23.1	21.1	13.8	0.6	1.9	60.5

Deliverable Grain and Prairie Farms

How much marketable grain actually remains on prairie farms is a question of more than passing interest at the present time. The opinion is expressed in some circles that this is not as big as estimates have indicated, especially in the case of coarse grain. Consequently the grain trade is show-

ing considerable interest in a new survey of deliverable grain which may show a sharp reduction in estimate of supplies of oats and barley intended for market and still in producers' hands.

The October survey indicated quantities of deliverable grain estimated at 671 million bushels of which 97 million bushels were oats and 100 million bushels were barley. Producers had marketed 237 million bushels of all grain by January 5, including 44 million bushels of oats and 66 million bushels of barley. On the basis of the earlier estimates this would leave 53 million bushels of oats and 34 million bushels of barley to be marketed. A substantial reduction in the new estimates would leave relatively small quantities of these grains to be marketed by producers before the end of the current crop year.

Wheat Bookings for Churchill Port

Grain trade circles report the sale of 35 cargoes of milling wheat for shipment through the Hudson Bay Port of Churchill when that port is opened for navigation next July. As is their custom, officials of the Canadian Wheat Board declined to comment on the report.

This transaction involves some 12 million bushels of high grade milling wheat, the bulk of which is destined for Great Britain and Belgium with the balance marked for other European countries. This quantity approximates the record quantity of wheat shipped through the port last year.

No information has been available on the price at which the grain was quoted. However, it is assumed that this would be the current Board quotation of \$1.82 per bushel basis No. 1 Northern in store Port of Churchill.

The government elevators at Churchill are now filled to near capacity with 2.5 million bushels of wheat. The extension to these facilities now under construction will double the storage capacity at the Port.

For a number of years the Hudson Bay Route Association has endeavored to promote trade through Churchill by pointing out to British and Canadian buyers the economies in shipping charges to be gained by shipment through this port. Some argue that these gains are partially lost through other charges.

Canada Still Big Factor in World Grain Trade

Canada may not have sold as much wheat during the 1953-54 crop year as in some previous years but the volume sales were still larger than those of any other country.

A recent report issued by the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada shows that this country's wheat, wheat flour and rye efforts accounted for 30 per cent of the world's trade in bread grains. The 1953-54 efforts of some 438 million bushels, while below the record level of 582 million bushels of the previous year, were substantially above the 30-year average of 314 million bushels.

Reasons for reduction in exports last year were lower demands in importing

COMMENTARY

countries and increased competition from other exporting nations. Western Europe enjoyed good crops in 1953 and hence import requirements were reduced.

Increased competition in the world's wheat markets was induced by the return of the Argentine to the international markets. The United States, too, offered sharp competition in her effort to reduce accumulated stores of bread grains. V

Ports of Shipment and Price Differentials

The Canadian Wheat Board has continued to carry out a policy enunciated last February of endeavoring to keep Canadian wheat generally competitive in overseas markets irrespective of the port of shipment. This was the opinion of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, expressed before the House of Commons last month.

In February, 1954, the Wheat Board announced a new pricing policy which involved quoting separate prices daily for wheat in store Pacific coast ports, in store Fort William-Port Arthur, and in store Port of Churchill. At that time the Board described its policy as follows:

"As a measure to establish more equality in wheat shipment from various parts of the prairie provinces, the Board, for such period of time as may be necessary is adopting a policy of making Board wheat generally competitive in overseas markets irrespective of the port of shipment. Pursuant to this objective the Board will take into account not only internal costs of moving wheat to seaboard position but also the various ocean freight rates involved and such variations in the foregoing costs as may occur from time to time."

Pursuant to the new policy, said the minister, on February 16, 1954, the price of wheat in store Fort William-Port Arthur was lowered by seven cents per bushel under the price of wheat in store at Vancouver. It was obviously not the intention of the Wheat Board to establish a fixed differential between Fort William-Port Arthur and Vancouver and such a policy would have defeated the purposes of the revised pricing policy. Actually the price relationship between these ports has greatly changed since that time. Fort William-Port Arthur prices have been decreased with the result that at that time (January 11) the in store price at Fort William was only one cent below the in store price at Vancouver on grades 1 to 4 Northern and identical with the Vancouver prices on Nos. 5, 6 and Feed Wheat.

For comparison, Mr. Howe referred to the prices for January 6, 1955. On that day No. 1 Northern in store Fort William was quoted at \$1.72 while the Vancouver quotation was \$1.74. He said that "based on the cost of ocean freight that day the price of No. 1 Northern shipped from Vancouver and landed in the United Kingdom would be \$2.21 a bushel whereas the same grain shipped from eastern ports would be \$2.22½ a bushel. On that particular day there was obviously a price advantage out of Vancouver." He pro-

ceeded to explain that this did not mean that all purchasers would buy through Vancouver because of other factors such as time of delivery and the ability to find vessels willing to make the longer haul from the West Coast when higher revenues could be earned just now on shorter hauls.

During the current crop year from August to December 29, of all Canadian wheat shipped to overseas destinations, 33.6 per cent was shipped from Vancouver-New Westminster, 0.7 per cent from other Pacific ports, 12.7 per cent from Churchill, 49.4 per cent from St. Lawrence ports and 3.6 per cent from Atlantic ports. During the next few months while navigation is closed through the Port of Churchill and the St. Lawrence, the Vancouver and Atlantic port percentages will increase.

The minister concluded his comments as follows:

"The Wheat Board is charged with the duty of marketing all prairie wheat to best advantage for the producer. Obviously all prairie wheat cannot be moved to advantage through either a western port or an eastern port. Internal freight charges can quickly offset any advantages gained by lower selling prices at any one port. The purpose of the Board must be at all times to see that returns to the producer for prairie grain are the maximum obtainable."

"My own opinion is that the Canadian Wheat Board is succeeding very well in keeping prices competitive between our ocean ports. Proof of this is the percentage of the business which is presently moving from our various ports." V

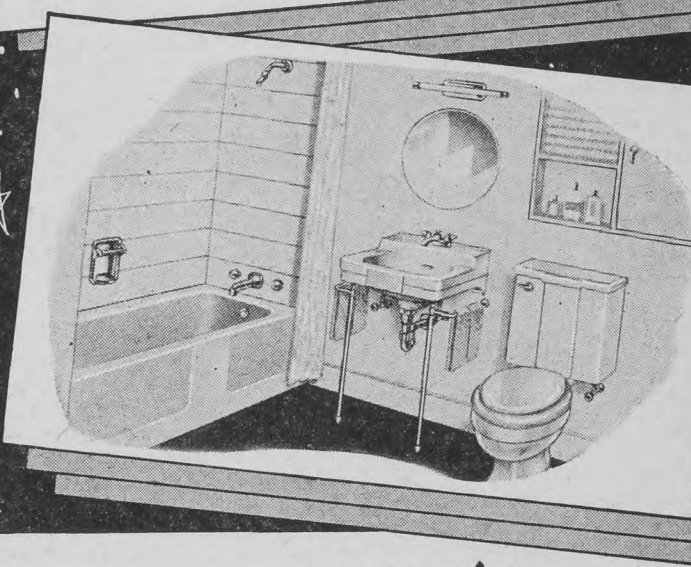
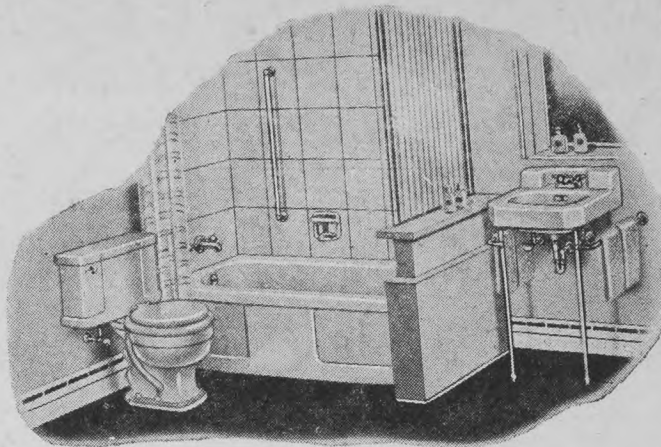
Whither U.S. Surplus Disposal Policies?

The recommendation by the U.S. House Appropriations Committee last month that the United States adopt an undisguised dumping operation to dispose of surplus agricultural commodities apparently produced little official comment in Canada. However, there were those engaged in Canadian agricultural industries who received the news with some trepidation despite the fact that the recommendation has no force of law. Nevertheless it is a strong indication of congressional sentiment at the present time.

Under these proposals periodic auctions would be held by the United States government with the commodities going to the highest bidders. This would assume a sharp decline in the world prices of the commodities concerned.

Entirely different is the surplus disposal plan voted into law last year, which, although it is not a dumping operation in the strict sense of the word, poses a serious problem for Canada. The act, voted in last year, is officially known as the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act and applies to both domestic and foreign policies. Its purposes as stated is "to stimulate and facilitate the expansion of foreign trade in agricultural commodities produced in the United States by providing a means whereby surplus agricultural commodities in excess of the usual marketings of such commodities may be sold through private trade channels and foreign currencies accepted in payment." V

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The conviction that 1955 will be a "year of decision" in which the solution of immediate problems will have a tremendous capacity for good or evil in Canada's future was expressed by James Muir, Chairman and President, at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of The Royal Bank of Canada. Only a rare combination of statesmanship and good fortune, he declared, could guarantee a proper solution of these problems.

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

"I am still of the opinion," said Mr. Muir, "that Canada's future lies on the side of improving her competitive position rather than isolating herself behind heightened barriers of trade. Increased protection is no answer. The disadvantage of our dollar's high exchange value is general: it affects all Canadian producers. It imposes a tax on exports and a subsidy on imports. Protection helps only those Canadian producers who must compete in the home market against imports: it does nothing for our exporters except to subject them to a further rise in domestic costs and hence to a further limit on their ability to compete in foreign markets."

LONG-TERM FINANCING

"In view of the importance to Canada, today and in the future, not only of maintaining exports, but of maintaining intact her industrial legacy from wartime expansion, it seems abundantly clear that definite action should now be taken to provide our traders with the credit facilities they lack. These facilities might take various forms; but, in general, they could be provided by a corporation, owned partly or wholly by the Government, with the power to discount export paper of longer term than chartered banks can handle. The essential function of such a corporation could indeed be provided very simply by widening the scope and operations of existing government entities now active in assisting trade and industry."

FORESIGHT NEEDED

"We have the natural resources necessary to make our own efforts worth while; and so in the end our progress depends upon the quality and quantity of our human resources. We must start today to create the economic environment that will both encourage, and enable us to take full advantage of, that growth in population and capital without which we cannot realize the great potentialities that lie in our wealth of natural resources."

"How we meet our problems in this year of decision will profoundly affect the direction and rate of Canada's growth. If the decisions we make are in keeping both with the realities of the present and with those of that greater Canada which can be seen in outline even now, we may safely leave our doubts behind and, by making the decisions appropriate to greatness, bring greatness itself within our grasp."

1955: YEAR OF DECISION

"I believe that 1955 is a 'year of decision' in which our solution of immediate problems will have a tremendous capacity for good or evil in the years to come," said Mr. Muir.

"Within an overall climate of political and economic freedom, our policy decisions in government and business during 1955 should take due account of four interdependent goals of an economic policy directed towards the economic welfare of the community. The first of these is to ensure that our human resources are not wasted in involuntary idleness; that is, we should try to maintain a high and stable level of business activity and employment. The second goal is to ensure that our resources, when fully employed, are allocated in such a way as to produce the maximum volume of goods and services and to bring these goods and services to market in the proportions in which consumers want them. The third goal is to ensure that the distribution of the national product and income combines equity with the highest possible incentive to increase the total amount of product to be shared. The fourth and final goal is to ensure that all our policy decisions are consistent with an appropriate rate of economic progress and growth in the economy as a whole."

Assets Over \$3 Billion

T. H. Atkinson, General Manager, in reviewing the bank's 1954 report, stated that total assets of The Royal Bank of Canada have now passed the three-billion mark. This, he pointed out, was a new record in the history of Canadian banking, and an indication of the bank's pre-eminence in the opinion of the public.

Deposits had also reached record totals, said Mr. Atkinson, pointing out that they now stand at \$2,797,548,149. It would have been reasonable to expect a decline in loans to accompany a falling off in the gross national product, he commented, but this had not been the case, although the pace at which loans were expanding had slowed down. The bank's loans had increased to a total of \$1,188,022,047.

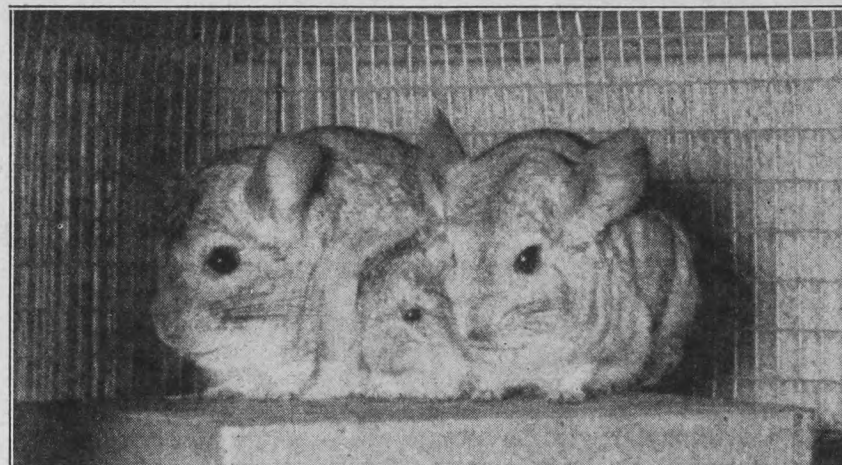
GREAT STAFF TEAM

"Including maintenance staff, technicians, and others with special duties, we now employ well in excess of 15,000 people. They are welded into a great and resolute team which takes second place to none. 1954 was no exception to the pattern of the post-war period which has seen the emergence annually of increased volume and new business procedures to place fresh demands upon the staff. Again the challenge has been met by our staff with skill and devotion."

Fur Farming With Chinchillas

These tiny fur-bearers have become a center of interest and a source of profit in recent years

by M. CORRIGALL



As a hobby or as a business, chinchilla raising is popular.

A HOBBY or a full-time business may be started by the purchase of a pair of chinchillas. These beautiful little rodents possess the world's most beautiful luxury fur, a fact well noted by the Inca Indians, conquerors of the Chincha Indians high in the Andes Mountains, who prized it greatly. They made it into royal robes and almost trapped the little chinchillas to extinction.

Luckily, a farsighted American mining engineer, Mr. M. F. Chapman, succeeded in trapping a few alive, which he imported into United States in 1923. From this small beginning came the numerous chinchilla farms all over the States, which are spreading north into Canada. Only recently have there been enough raised so that pelting may be done. The sole pelting station is in Seattle, U.S.A. What woman would not love to have a coat of the beautiful fur? But alas, the little chinchillas are worth anywhere from \$1,250 to \$2,200 a pair, alive. It takes 150 or more pelts to make a coat, the little animals being so small that a full-grown one weighs only about 18 ounces.

The fur is the most beautiful known. It is so very light that a small puff of wind will make a ripple in it. The base is slate blue for about three-quarters of an inch, then there is a quarter-inch white bar, and finally the blue-grey outer tips and the fine, bluish guard hairs. The hair is very thick, as many as 80 follicles grow from a single one, and it is so light that one pelt weighs a mere ounce.

YOU do not need much space for a chinchilla ranch, but the little animals must be kept warm and free from drafts. They are kept in especially constructed wire pens and are fed pellets and hay. Drinking water and a limb of apple wood to chew on, complete their happiness. They must be kept scrupulously clean, but the fact that they are very clean little animals, and have no odor and are subject to few diseases, makes this easy.

At about one year old, they settle down to married life and usually produce two litters of one to four babies a year. Gestation period is 111 days. The babies are born with their eyes

open and a full set of teeth. The "Mrs." is definitely the boss. Mrs. C. Wagner at Willow Point, Campbell River, showed us a poor rejected suitor, with one ear chewed and fur pulled out—quite a sad-looking specimen. However, the parents are devoted to their young and both help to look after them. The mother weans them at about 45 days, and at 60 days they are taken from their mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wagner, at whose home at Willow Point, Campbell River, we were visiting, told us they had bought a pair of chinchillas a few years ago and now have about 20 at the ranch, a few of which are "boarders" for other owners. The chinchillas are a hobby at present, but may develop into a full-time job in the future. Mabel and Martin, teen-aged daughter and son, are keenly interested, and help to care for the tiny pets. In fact, Martin is so fond of them that I doubt if he could ever bear to see any of them made into pelts. Mabel has carried her interest to the extent of biology work in her high school class, and has the co-operation of her teacher in her studies.

All stock is registered and an inspector calls twice a year to grade them. After grading, which is done by points—so many for color, uniformity, fur, length and density, also size and proportion of body—the tiny animals are identified by a tattoo on the ear. Chinchilla ranches at Comox and Campbell River on Vancouver Island have been given high praise. It is surprising, when you ask around, to find how many people are taking up this fascinating hobby—or business, if you prefer.

Starting Motors In Wintry Weather

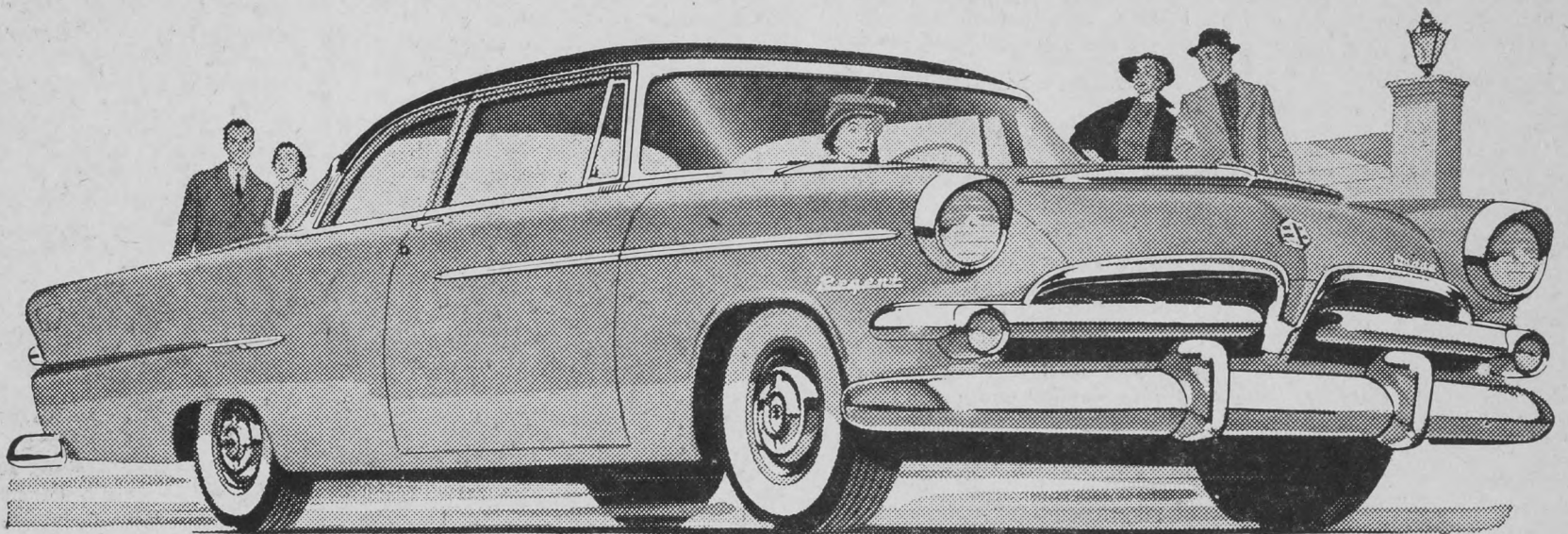
by OSCAR TONN

WHEN it is 20 or 30 degrees below zero any engine is unhappy about having to start. A few hours' work on the farm motors on a mild day, will put them into condition for prompt starting.

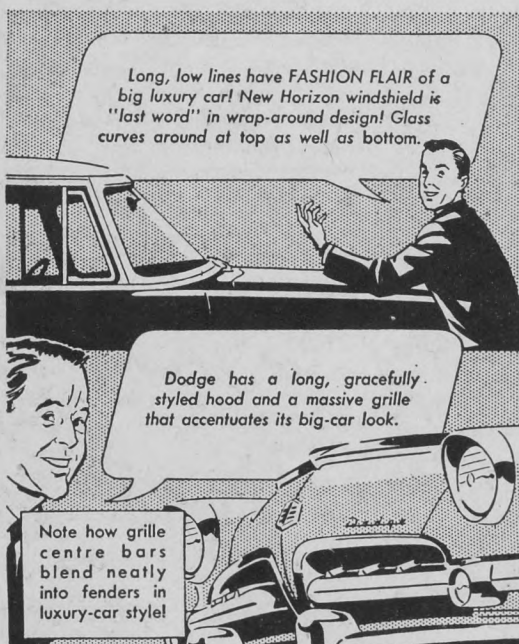
Farmers on hydro should install an immersion or strap-on heater on all (Please turn to page 38)

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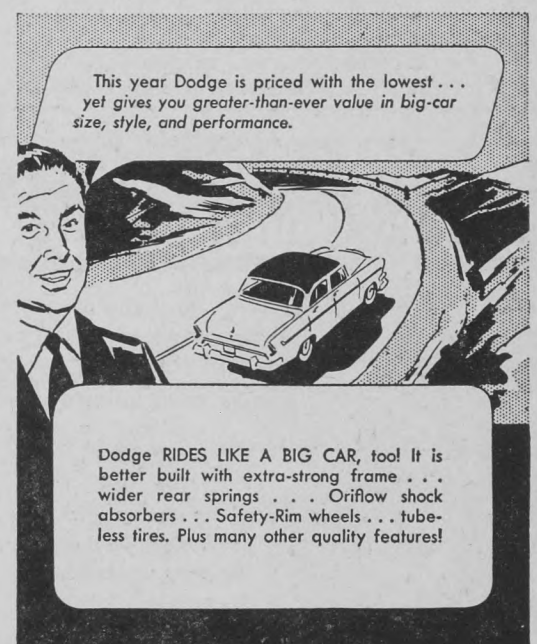
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New V-8, Two Big New 6's

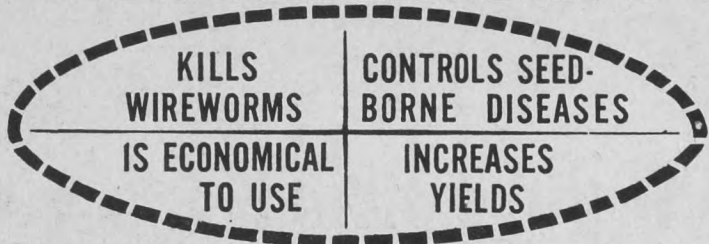
Choose from the new 157-h.p. Hy-Fire V-8 engine or two great 6's—the 115-horsepower PowerFlow or the 125-horsepower PowerFlow Special. PowerFlite automatic transmission available at slight extra cost with Hy-Fire V-8 or PowerFlow Special.

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"'Mergamma' C has certainly paid off for me. It has consistently given yield increases of from 8 to 10 bushels per acre—about a 30% increase. It is easy to use, relatively dust-free and has good adherence qualities."
NICK ORTMAN, WEYBURN, SASK.

"I never received so much from any investment as I did for the small amount it cost me to treat my seed with 'Mergamma' C."
L. VANDERGRAFT,
DAWSON CREEK, B.C.

"Ever since I started using 'Mergamma' C my crop yield has been on the increase."
JAS. HARDIE, OYEN, ALTA.

'MERGAMMA' C is a proven seed dressing, as these letters testify. The only sure way to find out if there are wireworms in your soil is to use 'Mergamma' C on part of your field. Then you'll see the difference... and will welcome the increased yield.

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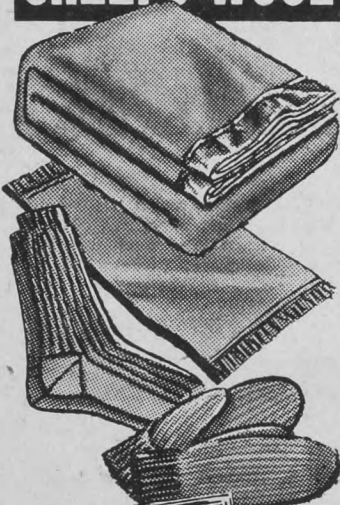
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motors that are likely to be needed in winter. Most of these heaters draw 400 watts, and will heat a motor in five hours at a cost of about two-fifths of a cent an hour (at a one cent per kilowatt hour rate).

The electrical system, including the battery, should be in top condition. A good six-volt battery will deliver six volts in summer weather, but on a cold winter day perhaps only four volts. This means a slower turning motor, and also a reduced voltage is delivered to the coil just when a hot spark is essential.

Old batteries should be replaced. Battery posts should be cleaned and connections tightened, to minimize voltage drop. Clean the spark plugs and set the gaps according to manufacturer's specifications. The breaker points should be examined; if they are pitted, replace them. On my own car, which I use all winter, I replace the plugs and breaker points before the cold weather every year.

If you use your car, truck or tractor only occasionally, the battery should be taken out and kept indoors. A warm battery will deliver extra voltage. The same thing can be accomplished, if you are on the power line, by hooking up a "battery booster" several hours before you expect to start the motor. The booster delivers a four-ampere trickle to the battery, tops up the charge and warms the battery.

If using a heavy oil, run your engine until it is hot, drain the crank case, and refill with a light, winter oil. This not only makes for easier starting, but reduces engine wear. A heavy oil circulates to the moving parts slowly and in cold weather does not give top lubrication.

Clean the sediment bowl and fuel pump. The fuel pump can be examined by loosening the union on the outlet of the pump or carburetor inlet. If the pump is working properly, fuel should spray out when the motor is running at a fast idle.

Remove the air cleaner and make sure the choke valve closes completely. Check the spring-loaded flapper valve: if the spring is broken, or even weak, it will not "choke" a cold engine.

If the radiator is drained, as a tractor radiator frequently is, block off the radiator, remove the thermostat, and fill the radiator with hot water. If it is very cold and the tractor is slow to start, watch that the water in the radiator does not freeze and burst the radiator while you are working around the tractor.

When actually attempting to start the motor the clutch pedal should be pressed in, even though the vehicle is out of gear; de-clutching reduces the load on the starting motor. If the motor does not start at once, use the starter intermittently; use it for no more than 15 seconds, and then rest the motor for 30 seconds. This is easier on the battery, and increases the likelihood of the motor catching.

Pouring hot water over the intake manifold is an old trick, but still a frequently successful one. Another old, and often effective, practice, is to use the crank: when the battery is spared the burden of turning the motor, a higher voltage reaches the coil and frequently the hotter spark will ignite the fuel, the motor will fire, cough a couple of times, fire again, and suddenly it is going!

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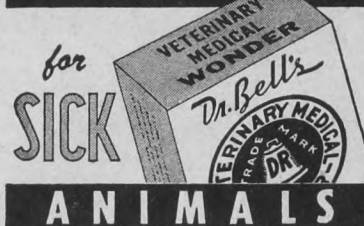
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Alberta Plans Native Fruit Research

University has begun work on a 40-acre tract in Crimson Lake Provincial Park

TO any horticulturally minded person who has visited the area, the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains present an opportunity and a challenge. The region abounds with a substantial variety of native fruits, which include blueberries, true cranberries, saskatoons, edible fruited honeysuckle, wild raspberries and strawberries.

This area, particularly west of the central part of the province, as well as in the north between the Edmonton area and the Peace River district, and the Peace River district contains large amounts of land where normal types of agriculture are not practiced, except for some mixed farming under fairly marginal conditions.

For several years Dean A. G. McCalla of the College of Agriculture, and Dr. R. J. Hilton, Professor of Horticulture, University of Alberta, have recognized in this situation a challenge to the University, not only from the point of view of fruit breeding, but also because of the possibility of eventually providing some better economic use for parts of the area. Before much that would be useful could be achieved, it would first be necessary to find a location at which it would be possible to bring together and subject to observation and experiment a wide choice of varieties and strains, and to test the practicability of improving those found most desirable, to the point of economical culture and production.

A suitable site must be readily accessible both in spring and fall, and must provide a wide range of topographical conditions within a comparatively small area, as well as a variety of shade and moisture. Equally important would be a considerable variety of native fruits already growing on the site. Such a site was eventually located a short distance west and north of Rocky Mountain House in the Foothills region, west of Red Deer. Notice has already been taken in these columns of the fact that in the fall of 1953, a native fruit station was established on this site, with the approval of the Board of Governors of the University.

The area is hilly and covered with trees in various degrees of density, but it also contains a large bog on which it is hoped to establish true cranberries and to develop varieties or strains that will withstand Alberta winters and produce profitable crops.

Last year the season was extremely wet, but a further survey of the tract was made, some small fertilizer plots established, and two varieties of the large-fruited eastern cranberry established in the bog area, as well as five varieties of the high-bush cultivated blueberry, in several locations on the drier land. It was planned shortly after our visit to plow a few small and very carefully selected areas in preparation for planting to native blueberry and cranberry selections introduced from elsewhere. Further mulch and fertilizer trials were to be established this spring. Mulch will be

used in an effort to find out whether sawdust or peat moss from the bog will help tender plants to withstand the winters, or naturally hardy native plants to overcome late spring frosts or dry conditions, and thus produce more fruit.

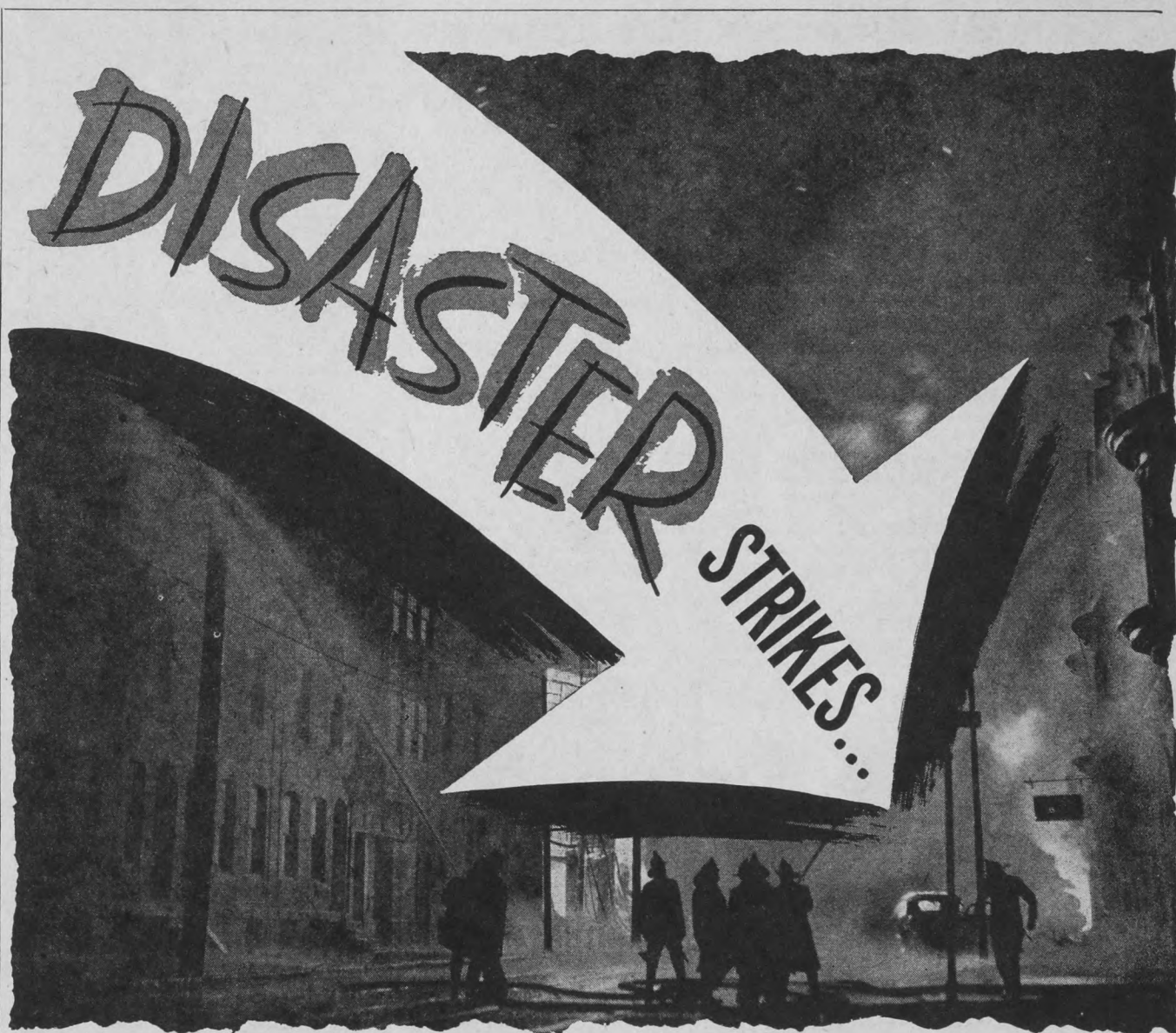
Dr. Hilton sees many possibilities for the study of species and varieties

of fruits not native to the area, as well as for studying the relation of the native fruits to their environment.

"One interesting fact observed so far," said Dr. Hilton, "is that from a small population of native wild raspberry plants selected last spring and transplanted into a small bed, no evidence of virus infection could be observed during 1954. With the wet season we have experienced, one would expect the virus diseases to show up most noticeably the first year, but none has been seen. This may mean that we may be able to introduce, or bring in, virus-free stock of cultivated raspberries from other areas

and maintain them for propagation in a virus-free condition."

The wild blueberry crop in the foothills region in central Alberta was very light last year, probably because of lack of snow cover during the late winter along with three weeks of very warm weather in February, followed by temperatures close to 50 below zero. There was also an almost continuous rainy spell during the blossom period for native blueberries. "It is hoped," said Dr. Hilton, "that the native fruit station will, in the future, provide an excellent outdoor laboratory for basic research work in the performance of these native fruits under varied conditions." V



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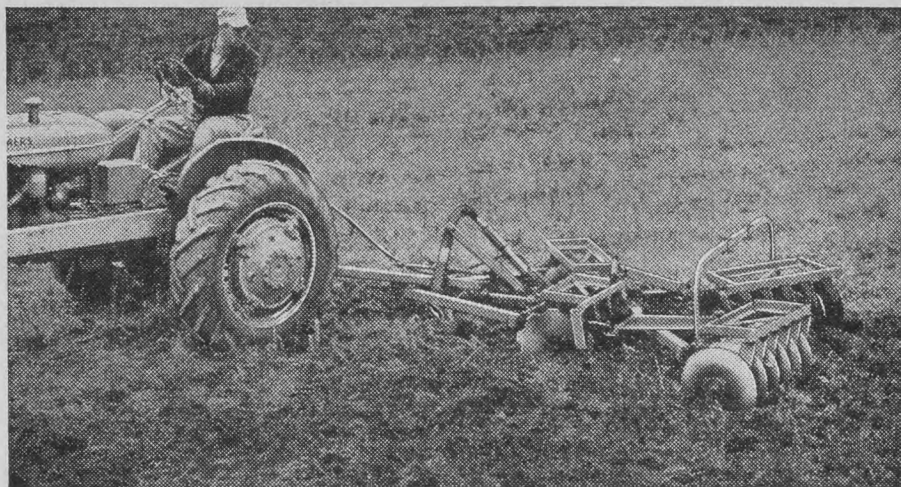
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Manitoba Has Some Common Barberry

*Destroy these plants wherever seen
and help prevent the spread of stem rust*

by GEORGE A. STEVENSON



These are the berries of the common barberry—found in Manitoba.

OFFICIALLY there are no common barberry bushes to be found in Manitoba. The Seventh Annual Report of the Canadian Weed Survey for 1947 states tersely: "*Berberis vulgaris*. Manitoba—until eradicated." However, the recent discovery of a few scattered plants in southwestern Manitoba indicates that it has not yet been completely eliminated from the wheat-growing sections of the province. Some of these bushes—now destroyed—carried good crops of berries in 1954. Birds eat the bright red berries and carry them to their roosting places, where they cough up the seeds, which will germinate and grow if conditions are right in the new location. Thus the barberry can be spread from one section of the country to another.

The plant is a native of Asia and Europe and was carried to North America by the early settlers. As early as 1660 France had passed laws prohibiting barberry bushes near grain fields; and by 1726 the New England states were passing legislation requiring its eradication. In 1888 the Ontario Agricultural College advised farmers

against planting the common barberry, but it was not until after the bad rust year of 1916 that active steps were taken for its control in the prairie provinces.

The red summer spores of stem rust do not survive our severe winters, but each year spores are carried in by strong winds from the south; and if conditions are right and susceptible varieties are being grown, we have an epidemic of stem rust. However, as the grain ripens in the fall, black resting spores are produced which do survive the winter. These black resting spores germinate in the spring, but can infect only barberry bushes, which in turn infect the grain; thus the life cycle of the rust is completed. It is in this barberry phase of the life cycle that new strains of stem rust may be developed that could attack previously rust-resistant varieties of wheat.

Destroy all common barberry bushes. The shrub is easily recognized in the spring by its bright yellow flowers, and in the fall by its longish bright red berries, which hang in bunches like currants and remain on the branches well into the winter, or until eaten by birds. It grows to a height of six or eight feet under Manitoba conditions and has slender upright or slightly drooping branches. The outer bark is light grey in color and the inner bark is bright yellow. The roots are also a bright mustard-yellow color. The green or sometimes purple leaves are spiny-edged or saw-toothed, and beneath each leaf-cluster there is a three-forked spine. It is easily distinguished from the ornamental and harmless Japanese barberry, *Berberis Thunbergii*, which has reddish-brown or purple outer bark, leaves with smooth edges, berries produced singly or in bunches of two or three, and usually only one spine beneath each cluster of leaves.

Doubtful specimens should be sent for identification to the Department of Botany, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, or to the Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon.

Poultry Can Make Money . . . If!

As a side-line on a two-acre B.C. Delta home, laying hens swell the family income

by TOM LEACH

MORE than 2,000 miles separated Fred Martin of Wawanesa, Manitoba, and his dream farm in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia, but the 43rd cold winter helped him to make a definite decision to come west.

I found him on his two-acre estate near Ladner, B.C., trimming the old vines out of the loganberries. "I'm not doing this for the fruit I get off them," he told me. "It's shade for the hens."

His real farming interest now is in 500 healthy looking Hampshire hens,

which have done well during the past two years. The figures he has prove that they laid more than the average flock in the Fraser Valley; and he lost very few hens from disease, if you compare his figures with the official statistics.

"How did you happen to come to the coast?" I asked him.

He thought for a moment before he replied. "I guess we just got tired of the cold winters. My brother-in-law and I farmed there, near Wawanesa, for 43 years—principally grain

farming—and when we came out here and saw how flat it was, we liked it. This was the second place we saw and we bought it.”

I couldn't help but understand why he liked the place. It had a homey-looking bungalow surrounded by evergreen shrubs, with a large cluster of filbert nut trees, several fruit trees, rows of raspberries, and when he moved in, a half-acre of currant bushes, all bearing.

“What happened to the currants?” I questioned.

“We cut them out year before last,” he replied. “There is no market for currants. Same as the loganberries,” he added.

“I guess you made up for that out of the nut orchard,” I said, thinking of the price I had paid previous Christmas seasons for filberts.

“Never made a cent from them,” he assured me. “Three years ago,” he continued, “I harvested 300 pounds and dried them carefully one by one in front of the fire, while I listened to the hockey matches on the radio. There wasn't a dud in the bunch. They were all sound nuts and good, but I couldn't get a cent for them. Then, Christmas before last, when the price was good, we didn't harvest a pound.”

As it is on so many farms, it turned out that Mrs. Martin kept all the records on the poultry flock, and I saw her to find out how the hens had made out during the nine years they

have farmed their small acreage on the Delta.

They had earned more than their keep during the nine years. They had paid wages for the labor involved, in eight of those years; while some years were better than others, the Martins are not complaining about the hens.

Two years ago they co-operated with the Economics Division of the Canada Department of Agriculture and kept accurate tab on all expenses,



Fred Martin finds growing loganberries much different from wheat.

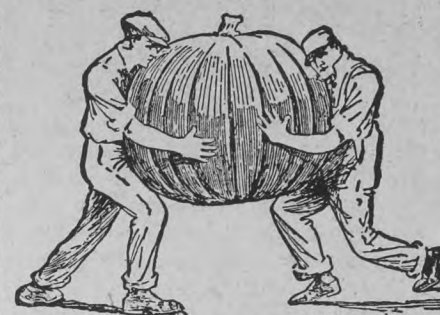
including the number of hours they worked to feed and care for the 500 laying hens.

When the records were all finished and the returns compiled, they found that they had received 54 cents an hour for their 2,000 hours of work, after paying for the feed and other supplies.

But 1952 was a fair year as far as egg prices were concerned, and 1953 was even better.

Fred was not so certain about the years ahead. He said that feed prices are still high and egg prices have come down faster than in previous years. “I'm culling the old hens off fast now. If they aren't laying, I can't feed them,” and he added, “It's lucky I have a job to fall back on.”

That proved to be fortunate as far as the Martins' experience went in their farming venture on the flats by the Fraser. One year the cannery didn't operate, and Fred rented land nearby and planted it in potatoes. It happened to be a good price year for potatoes, so he made out all right. If he and his brother-in-law plant an acre of canning beans this year, they may harvest five or six tons, providing moisture conditions are good. The raspberries may sell; they may harvest 200 or 300 pounds of filbert nuts; and even a few loganberries may be wanted by neighbors. But he will rely on the hens to bring in the tax money and thank his lucky stars that the cannery is nearby and wants help. ✓



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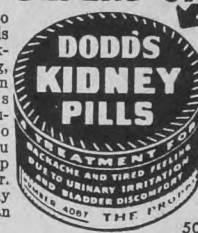
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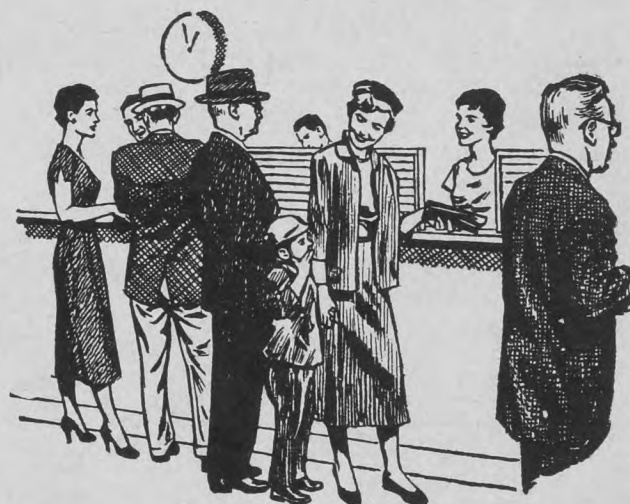
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Snake Lake Cattle Trek

Continued from page 8

one had no end gates. We, therefore, had to take the complete end out of the box. I got three natives to guard the open entrance to the box while I went in and caught the animals one at a time. The heifers, scared and excited, gave the natives the thrill of their lives as they came out one at a time, fighting at the end of a rope. Everything went fine until four animals were out of the box; then all hell seemed to break loose.

I WAS tying the fourth heifer in the barn, when I heard the most terrific screaming in Cree that I have heard in my four years of northern experience. Going to the door, I saw people running and screaming in all directions. Several of them had made the roof of the barn in very short order,—others were under cover behind houses and any other protection they could find. Someone had decided that they would take an animal out of the box, and had picked on the little yearling Aberdeen-Angus bull, weighing about 850 pounds. He came out of the box with his back in a half-moon arch and promptly proceeded to cut a merry

swath on the end of a 40-foot rope held by two natives, who did not just know what to do. Meantime the little bull was taking a tear at just about everything and everyone within range. The man of the moment happened to be Bill Sanderson, the native cat driver from Lac La Ronge.

Bill Sanderson's instinct told him that the seat of his D-4 cat was safer than any other place—the speed he put on would have won him fame on any cinder track. Once on the seat he opened the throttle wide. This helped distract the bull, but the neglected heifer in the sleigh box headed for the wide open spaces.

By this time it was dark. Martin Rediron and a helper took off on horseback and managed to herd the heifer to his home three miles across the lake. There was no hope of catching her that night, however, and during the night the half-crazed animal wandered about seven miles back toward La Ronge. On Tuesday morning Cyril Hanson and Martin Rediron went after her, but were unsuccessful. The frightened animal charged at their horses and broke the light ropes they had with them. They came back to Snake Lake at noon, Martin by this time not being too enthusiastic about cattle. When I said that the first thing to do was to get that animal, Martin lost no time in saying "No, I've had enough." However, we persuaded him to come back with us. After a few charge attacks by the heifer and quite a bit of struggling, we managed to get her on a flat-bottom sleigh, tie her legs, and haul her back to Martin's place.

ONE of the biggest difficulties in handling animals in these remote places is the lack of equipment. There were no sleigh boxes at Snake Lake, and no yards strong enough to hold scared animals. I also discovered to my sorrow that large areas of ice seem to make the animals doubly frightened. At any rate, the first injury of the trip occurred on Wednesday morning, when we were taking the two heifers allotted to Cyril Hansen, three miles across the lake from the settlement, to Rediron's place. Cyril had arranged to leave his animals there until better ice conditions prevailed to take them the 30 miles up Snake Lake to his home on Surrey River.

Due to lack of facilities for leading or loading, it was decided to lead the animals on foot, no one anticipating too many difficulties. Cyril and his brother Napoleon started out first with one of the animals, while Martin and I took the other one. We got our animal about 300 yards out on the lake when she seemed to go mad and started coming at us. On the first charge Martin thought he had seen everything and didn't take long getting back to shore, leaving me on one end of the rope and the charging animal on the other. There was no use running from her, so I just stood there, stepping to one side as she made her charges. After about a dozen tries, my foot got caught in the snow as I stepped out of her way, and she hit my chest, breaking a rib. Finally, the boys brought a sleigh onto the ice and we managed to get into it. The animal charged after the sleigh and from there on we made record time across the lake—tightening up the rope as the heifer caught up to the sleigh and slackening it as the horse and sleigh pulled away. The three-mile stretch was travelled in about ten minutes and we got the crazy animal snubbed up to a post and finally put in the barn.

Thus ended a northern escapade I won't easily forget. The rest of Wednesday was pretty painful, as was my plane trip back to Prince Albert on Thursday. Outside of some painful ribs and the equally painful ribbing I had to take from my friends, I think it is safe to say that the venture was a success and that once again enough cattle are in Snake Lake to start a livestock development.

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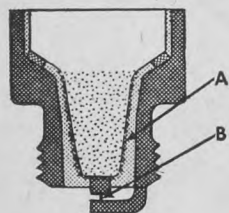
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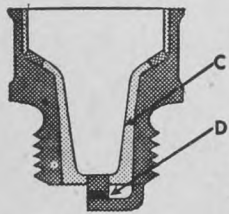


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Recipe for a Cattleman

Continued from page 11

are watered by windmills, Bar E cattle balk at the unfamiliar business of fording a stream. It took five riders about five hours to get the reluctant animals into the water, and during the process one rider and mount had to spend a good deal of time in the river, at considerable discomfort to both.

"But it's the sticky jobs like crossing the river which prove the truth of Elwood's contention that 'you can't beat a saddle horse at round-up time.' There's always some job comes up that would be pretty hard to tackle in a jeep or truck. Bar E hands and their mounts are trucked to the round-up scene each year, but as soon as rough country is reached the men take to the saddle. Even on the home ranch a couple of heavy draught horses are kept for winter work.

THE home ranch is operated as a grain and cattle set-up, about 1,000 acres being devoted to cropping and summerfallow. This is worked on a 50-50 proposition—500 acres in wheat, corn, oats and barley, and the remainder in fallow. There is little or no hay put up here, because winter feeding consists almost entirely of silage, and oat and barley straw. Range cows get no grain, except for a small ration in the two months before calving.

Because they give the heaviest yields per acre, corn and sweet clover are the main forage crops used. Harvesting is done by a field cutter which blows the chopped forage into open dump trucks. These, in turn, deposit their loads in two bunker silos located near the farm buildings. The larger silo, built partly below ground, measures 75 by 25 by 15 feet, and the smaller 75 by 20 by 8 feet, and their respective capacities are 800 and 300 tons. In both structures the walls consist of reinforced snow fencing.

Spoilage in both silos is quite low considering the little time involved in their construction. It runs about two per cent in the trench type, and from five to ten per cent in the surface structure when the latter has straight snow fence walls. This could be greatly reduced in the surface type if the walls were concrete, and sloped out at the top so that air would still be excluded as the silage settled. Any spoilage, however, is more than made up for in the reduced labor needed, as the Bar E owner will testify. "The change from dry feed to silage at the home ranch was a step in the right direction," he said, "especially from the labor angle." Through the use of machinery and labor-saving methods, the ranch is able to operate with three permanent men, plus a maximum of five or six temporary hands during the rush seasons.

Another labor-saver, and possibly a cattle-saver too, is a pole-type live-stock shelter, built to protect the Herefords in extremely cold weather. The Bar E has two of these, one measuring 30 by 100 feet and the other 40 by 100 feet. Both consist of three walls and a roof, and are open to the south. North walls and sides of these shelters are made of shiplap or good slabs, and each roof consists of a framework of poles covered with rough hay or straw. The sheds are easy to bed, and can be

readily cleaned out with a tractor fork. Also important to the practical cattleman is the fact that three men can put one of these shelters up in a week's time, at a cost of about \$500.

"A lot of decisions as to how you should handle your feed and cattle are influenced by the location and type of your land," Downie said.

This explains why the silage and grain formula of the home farm was not extended to the Shilo ranch. Because the Shilo place is more suited to grass and hay production, the partners depend entirely on hay for any winter feeding done there. Baled hay has been found to be the most practical on this

large acreage because of the longer hauls involved, and the fact that one man feeding bales can handle more cattle than with any other type of forage.

WHILE on one of his cattle buying trips in 1951, Elwood got the idea of holding an annual 4-H calf club sale, where youngsters could bid on calves at their own exclusive show. Many a future cattleman is discouraged in his youth, Downie contends, by starting out with poor quality stock. When he arrived home, the Bar E owner had a sale ring built, complete with bleacher seats for the spectators. That fall they launched

what is believed to be the first privately operated 4-H calf sale in Canada,—and it was a complete success.

About 200 youngsters and their parents attended the Fourth Annual Sale last October, and bought over 100 calves, at an average of \$103. The New Bothwell Calf Club of Manitoba, with 21 members, stocked their club with Bar E calves from the purchase of 21 head. In most cases the bidding was conducted by the boys and girls themselves. As an added incentive, the Downies offer special prizes to 4-H members who win awards with Bar E cattle, of which there have been 17 to date. These prizes amount to from



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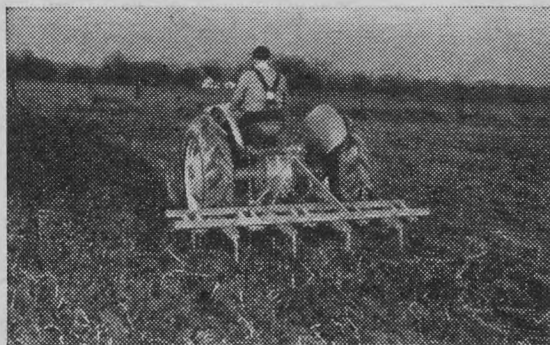
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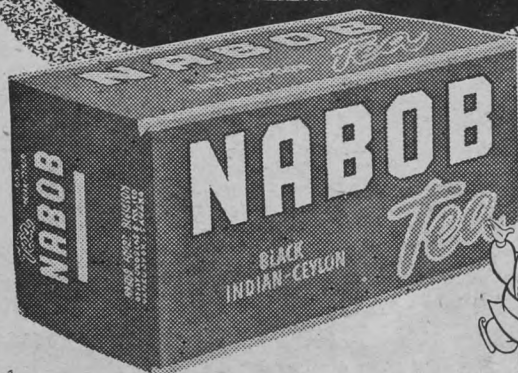
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\$100 to \$150 a year, and are presented at each sale, helping to make it a gala occasion. If possible, future sales will be held on the third Saturday in October, to enable club members to plan for the event.

To return to our recipe for success in the cattle game, one important ingredient omitted is the value of having an enthusiastic partner on the home front. And in this the Bar E is no exception. Mrs. Downie, the former Edith Somerville of Brandon, shares her husband's fondness for the big whitefaced Herefords. In her four years as a cattleman's wife she has become an excellent judge of them, which goes to prove that you don't have to be farm raised to be a livestock fan. And the Bar E story could well end on that note, for being a livestock fan is the basis of Elwood Downie's recipe for a successful cattleman.

The Treasure

Continued from page 10

all directions as if he might seize some tangible scheme from the air.

He became aware Sarah was standing in the unscreened doorway, her face a patient mask, her still-young body apparently neuter in its shapeless calico wrapper, her dark hair hanging in a long careless knot on her neck.

"Meal's gone," she said without inflection.

She moved one bare foot to dislodge a persistent fly.

"Flour too."

"We got rabbit," he said.

She nodded, no hint of criticism in her face or gesture. It was acceptance of the fact. There was a rabbit. There was no corn meal. There was no flour. The nine years had taken from her the power to go beyond those realities. She did not seek to lift the curtain on tomorrow. The burden of today was enough.

"Maybe I better go to town," he offered.

She nodded again.

His brain was working now. It was only nine o'clock in the morning. If he could go borrow Grady Nix's wagon, he could gather up the load of cedar poles that Grandpa Lamar cut before he died, and take them into town and get enough money at the lumber yard for some blasting powder to start with at the cave. He spared no thought for meal or flour.

With elaborate nonchalance, he got up and dawdled toward the road. Sarah scarcely raised her eyes. She appeared hardly aware he was gone. Her eyes dwelt almost unseeingly on the mesquites where languid doves already were settling for their siestas to escape the midday heat.

Matt glanced back as soon as he passed the turn in the lane. Sarah was hidden from view. He began to run. It was an experiment at first, the only time in years he had done such a thing. Then he settled to it in earnest. His lungs rebelled, he gasped and his mouth fell open, but he kept going. The treasure spirit was in him, just as it had been in him since he was a tike.

After three hundred yards he had to slow down, but he managed to maintain a dog trot for the half mile to Grady's place.

When he came home that night, he had crowded two days' activity into

one. His muscles ached, his hands were split, he could hardly walk the last fifty yards down the lane. But hidden in a squirrel hole in an old oak on Yancy Creek he had fifteen pounds of blasting powder and 200 feet of fuse, the reward for his handling of the cedar fence posts, the long ride into town, the painful loading. With him now, too, he carried ten pounds of corn meal for the larder, the excuse for his trip.

Already he was planning his sortie for the morrow, how he was going to get away from the porch without being suspected. He had stayed on the porch most of the time, in good weather, for six or seven years except when he was hunting or scouting for treasure. Sarah was going to wonder about him being gone again from the porch so soon. It wouldn't be natural. Warily he felt in his pocket to make sure he had the twelve .22 shells his brother Ed had given him. They were going to be his excuse. He could always pretend he was going hunting for something to go with the corn meal.

HE was more successful than he had expected. He wondered about it a little as he tramped stiffly but eagerly toward the Yancy before seven o'clock in the morning when there was still a little dew on the milkweed; he hadn't been up early enough to see dew in a long time. Sarah hadn't seemed suspicious at all. She hardly paid any attention when he left. He suddenly realized that maybe she hadn't paid much attention to anything for quite a spell. His acceptance of Sarah had been as automatic as his acceptance of his own inertia. She was a fact more than a woman.

Everything was ready for the carrying out of his plan. For years he had talked about throwing a small dam across the Yancy and diverting the water into a triangular patch of about fifteen acres of good bottom land, a real irrigation project. He had never done anything about it, but it had formed a conversation piece long enough to be an established possibility. Now he had simply told Sarah he was going to take a look at it, that maybe in a day or two he might even do a little blasting; he had to arrange to explain the noise of the blasting somehow.

As he stepped from rock to rock across the Yancy just above Little Falls, balancing himself with his rifle in one hand and his pick in the other, he suddenly realized with a shock that if the cave job went on for a long time he really would have to do something about the irrigation. Sarah was bound to want to see what he was doing sooner or later. If she found he had been buying blasting powder for another treasure hunt, there was no telling what she might do. He remembered with an inward squirming the lash of her words that other time, maybe seven years ago.

"You're no better than your pappy or your grandpappy, Matt Lamar. Always poking around in holes and hollow trees like they did, lookin' for treasure. What's got into you? You won't work, you won't farm, you just sit or go traipsin' off in the cedar brakes after gold. Nobody comes to see us any more. We're too worthless. I'm a-telling you, I'm a patient woman, but if it happens again, I'm a-leaving!"

It happened again, many times, in a mild way, and Sarah never had left.



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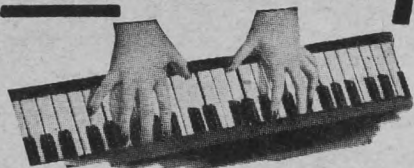
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But this was different. This might take months.

The mouth of the cave challenged him. The blocks of granite were wedged tight in defiance of mortal hands. He knew until he got more tools he was going to have to use pure leverage.

He got a heavy cedar pole and began to test the solidity of the piled-up boulders. With the knowledge of long practice, he found the weak spot in the mass. He braced himself, got a steady footing and began to move, to rise. He pushed downward on the cedar pole with all his might. The boulder tilted, balanced, fell to the left onto the ground. Two others slid a little, there was a faint pattering of debris falling down through the cracks.

The one effort left him breathless. He walked down to Yancy and got a drink. The stream ran over solid granite here, the water completely clear. He noticed there was a slide on a few feet from the cave itself; a slide that evidently had been the source of the rocks piled into the opening.

In the nearby cliff was a large bat cave he had seen many times before. It extended back into the semi-darkness about eighty feet.

Still breathing heavily, he went back to the job. Two more boulders finally yielded to his leverage after having been wrestled, propped up with smaller chunks of rock, and finally eased over the rim. He still could not see downward. Seemingly endless masses of stone defied him there.

BY ten o'clock he was exhausted. Years of improper nutrition, years of indolence had drained him. His stomach felt all gone. His arms shook. His eyes were bloodshot. He knew he had to quit. Yet this was not even a start.

He hid the pick and started home with the rifle, dragging his feet. He wanted to lie down and sleep but he felt he must get back to the porch. Too long an absence at first might make Sarah suspicious. It occurred to him, too, that he must kill something to make his story about hunting plausible. He shot the first cottontail he saw. Even it seemed too heavy to carry.

At the shack, he handed Sarah the rabbit and lay down on the porch. When he awoke it was late afternoon and his mind was racing. His muscles ached, his back was awry and he was hungry, but a scheme seemed to have come full-bloom. He stared at the scheme, stood off and looked at it, dissected it. There it was, sound and peart and reasonable. He decided if he was going to waste some of the blasting powder at the Yancy and start a dam, he might as well really divert the water and plant something. A field of green stuff might convince Sarah more than anything he could say to her. If it grew well, the mere fact of its growing would relieve him of further responsibility. He could spend more time at the cave.

First he thought only of corn. That was quick, easy and impressive. Then he began to wonder about more blasting powder. It would take money. There weren't any more cedar logs cut. He wondered about putting some squash and tomatoes between the rows of corn. If the water was going to be running down there anyway, it might as well be producing a quick money vegetable crop too.



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He groaned as he tried to get up. The thought of hard labor was all right, but the execution was more painful than he remembered. He got a drink at the well and went in to the inevitable corn pone and fried rabbit. After supper, he fell into bed.

At the Yancy in the morning, he drove his muscles into action. They rebelled. His arms kinked, there was a cramp in his right leg. Still he forced himself to walk, to bend, to lift. The

Yancy was maybe two feet deep here, twelve wide, running through banks of earth impregnated with boulders. He figured he could pile boulders across the stream, dig and blast a diversion ditch big enough to take part of the flow around the site and back into the stream bed farther down-until he could make the dam tight with small stones, poles, clay and earth.

He began the diversion ditch with an old shovel, starting back a few feet from the intake, so as to cut through

that part last. He tried to race through the work. It was impossible. He puffed and groaned for a half hour, making a hole around a boulder that had to be blown up and moved.

Then he could resist the cave no longer. He tramped over to it, already tired out but buoyed up by his interest. He must get ready to blast the remaining chunks of granite. They were either too large or too far down to handle with the lever.

He sized up the biggest one, and

picked a spot on it for the powder hole. Then he began chipping and drilling. The chisel hurt his hands, the rock drill was cold to the tender skin beneath the broken blisters.

He lasted until eleven o'clock. The dent in the rock was hardly noticeable, but he carefully put a smaller stone over it as a disguise in case hunters came along. Even in his exhaustion he was hungry. He decided the first thing he was going to plant between the corn was turnips; then he'd kill a wild pig and have pork and greens. He needed nourishing vittles to keep up this pace...

Five days later he was ready for the first blast. The powder hole was deep and clean and true, even though his hands were raw, red masses of shattered blisters and lacerations. He poured in and tamped the powder, caulked it, cut off the fuse two feet from the charge, picked his route to run, and lighted the fuse.

From behind a cedar forty feet away he heard the deep boom of black powder, heard the shattering fragments fly. He relished the thick, hot acrid smell of the smoke as he ran to see the result. The main boulder was well shattered. He began throwing out the pieces he could handle and saw that one of the other main blocks was cracked. It was a good start. But it made him realize the enormous extent of the task.

On the way home he set off a smaller charge, stingily spared from his cave supply, for the dam diversion ditch. The obstructing boulder broke up enough to be moved later. He at least had an exhibit of his useful work if Sarah happened to investigate.

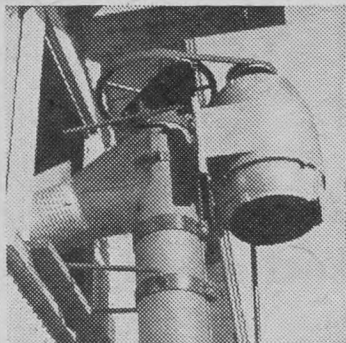
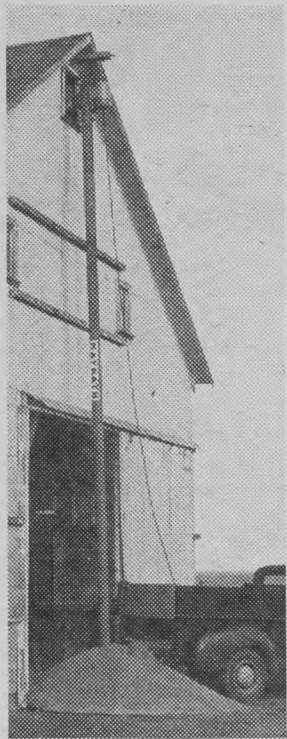
DAILY, as the summer advanced, he rose earlier, keeping pace with the sun or outdoing it in his zeal to be at the cave. Sarah was curious, but still too apathetic to inquire into his long absences. She sat on the porch, fanning, or stretched on the bed wearily reading the magazines her mother sometimes gave her.

Matt began to measure time by milestones at the cave and at the dam. It was in late May that he got the idea of irrigating a small garden from the diversion ditch, which now was done, while he completed the dam. In six weeks he had greens and lettuce and a good start on tomatoes. In June he got in two acres of corn for late roasting ears and maybe a little chicken feed. He was thinking more and more in terms of vittles as his stamina increased and his muscles hardened. His hands were healed now, with thick callouses over the scars.

It was in mid-June, too, that the first rattler came out of the depths of the cave. Matt was down about seven feet now, with no sign yet of the hole turning inward toward the cliff. The rattler was there one morning, coiled on top of the boulder he was drilling. It evidently could not get up the almost-sheer sides of the cave now that he had removed so much of the top layers. He killed the snake, but all the rest of the day as he continued drilling he imagined he heard rattlings and buzzings below; and he kept looking behind him to make sure no evil heads were coming up to strike him.

Finally, he almost got used to them and the inevitable daily chore of killing a new batch and throwing them outside. He was sure he had the big-

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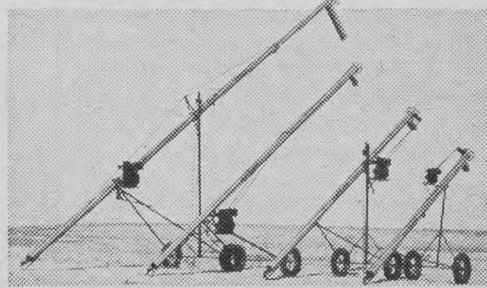
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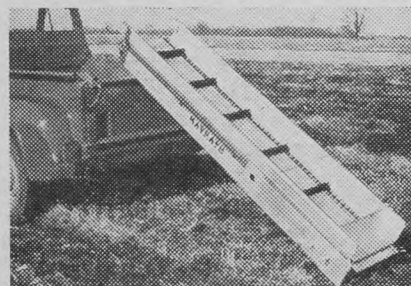
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gest collection of rattles in Lampasas County. One of the snakes, with thirteen rattles and a button, was nearly seven feet long and as thick as his leg. By August he figured he had them under control; he had killed sixty-seven.

The irrigated corn was flourishing. During the long hours of slow drilling and heaving and pulling on the ropes of his bucket hoist, he was planning for the next spring. He was thinking about turkeys now. There was always a good market in Austin. If he got the poults in late March or April, and put in a lot of early corn, he ought to be able to fatten them up for Thanksgiving and Christmas. But he would have to build a varmint-tight, roofed stockade to keep the coyotes and skunks from killing them. In October, he started the stockade, stealing time from the cave to cut and haul cedar poles for uprights and roof.

He was hungry nearly all the time now. He even wanted butter for his roasting ears. He wanted ham and eggs. He cut extra cedar logs and hauled them to town, and with the money bought an old Jersey, a dozen hens and a rooster, and a sow with pigs, even though it cut him a little short on his blasting powder. Sarah got out the brown churn that hadn't been used for years, and for the first time he noticed a little color in her wan cheeks and the hint of a spring in her step.

To cut down on feed for the cow during the long dry spell that was gripping West Texas and ruining the natural range, he carried his irrigation project farther than he had intended. He ran a stake and rider fence around two acres near the house, cross-fenced a half acre for barley, oats and vetch as a quick grazing crop, planted the other acre and a half in pasture grass, built a dike around the whole area and flooded it. When the pasture came up and he had plenty of feed he traded a load of poles for a plow horse, ancient but still sound and usable.

He still was starting in to work at sun-up but now he was keeping at it till sundown. There never seemed to be enough hours in the day. He was lean and hard, but not an ounce of fat on him. His face, despite the many hours spent underground, was a mahogany tan from his labors on the dam and in the field. His arms were tough and muscled from climbing up and down the hoist ropes in the cave.

BY November, he surmised he was nearing the bottom of the vertical part of the cave and that it soon must turn horizontal.

Despite his eagerness to be at the digging, he took six days off for two projects. For years he had known of two wild pecan trees on the Colorado, near the mouth of the Yancy in some of the wildest country along the river. The nuts were large and thin-shelled and he knew they would bring a premium price in Austin. Nearby was the biggest bee tree he had ever seen. Loading up old Billy the horse with gunny sacks and buckets and a small camp outfit, he went after pecans and honey.

It required four round trips, but he came out of the cedar brakes with 900 pounds of pecans that he had threshed and culled himself, and 200 pounds of fine, clear comb honey. This was going to provide the money for the turkeys. He even allowed himself the luxury of some Bull Durham in place of the bit-

ter home-grown Texas tobacco he had been smoking.

Sarah greeted him eagerly on his return.

"I've been lonesome," she said.

He looked at her. She was gaining a little weight from the milk and better food. Her eyes were clear instead of clouded. She spoke with a new interest in life.

"How long you had that old wrapper?" he asked suddenly.

"You ought to know," she said. "Just as long as we've been married. Ten years."

"Ten years," he repeated. "How old are you, Sarah?"

"Don't you remember that! I was sixteen and you were twenty-one."

He shook his head.

"Twenty-six? Let's hitch up and go to Lampasas tomorrow. I'm going to get you a new dress."

That was a milestone, too. Others came rapidly as the winter and the next spring rolled by. All winter Matt worked at a double project, the treasure cave and the bat cave in the nearby cliff. Every day he spent some time gathering and sacking the guano that lay in a three-foot deep layer all the way back in the bat cave, the accumulation of centuries. Every day he made two trips to the best twelve

acres of the irrigated land and spread the guano. That meant two hundred pounds of rich fertilizer a day, a ton every ten days, three tons a month. By spring the land was saturated with nitrates.

The turkey stockade was ready, a rugged structure that could have withstood the assaults of a grizzly bear, and the puny raids of coyotes.

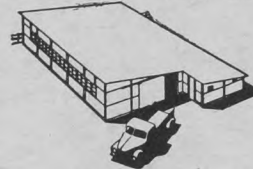
As he lay or stood in the treasure cave each day, chipping, hammering, blasting, hauling out the rock, disposing of the fragments, he wondered how it was going to feel to have the gold and silver...

Early in the spring he started plow-

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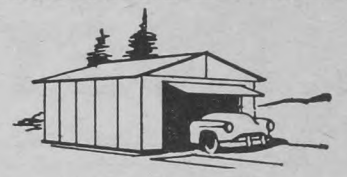


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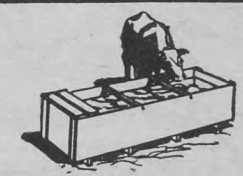
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ing. His program was clear in his mind: Ten acres of corn in the fertilized field with four acres more in a poorer patch where he had had no time to carry bat guano; yams, squash, tomatoes, peppers, turnips and a few other table vegetables in the remaining two acres of the fertilized land.

He bought four hundred baby turkeys and enough grain to tide them over until he got his own. He let them range in the pasture by day and shut them up at night. He found he was limited to about four hours a day in the cave. He chafed at the delay but he knew he must keep up his appearance of farming so Sarah would not suspect.

One day around the first of May, more than a year after he had found the bottle, he went home before noon to get the horse. Sarah was in the yard, digging in the earth. He stopped in amazement. She was planting geraniums.

"Cousin Horace sent them to me from California," she explained. "I thought I'd spruce the place up a little."

He noticed the animation in her face and saw that she, too, was getting a little brown from the sun.

"You look mighty pretty when you smile," he offered. She colored, then went on planting geraniums.

THAT fall, the turkey market was good. Matt made more than he expected, even though he held back Big Boy, his prize gobbler, and twenty hens for breeding stock. A wild idea came to him.

That evening when he came back from Austin he drove into the lane in a Model T that sent the astounded doves caroming away with a screaming of wings.

"It's second hand," he told Sarah, "but it runs like lightning."

She could only blink. Then she cried a little. Matt took her in his arms to reassure her. She was soft and her shoulders were round again.

He redoubled his efforts in the cave. At forty feet down it had turned inward as he had anticipated. Now he was encountering the really big boulders. And he could hear buzzings way back in the darkness. He knew he had never cleared out all the rattlers...

During the winter he replenished his field with bat guano and cleared a new piece of ground for spring plowing. The neighbors were beginning to stop by and chat about his plans. His corn had made seventy bushels to the acre on the good land, something never heard of in this part of Texas.

He dug and dug with a dogged mania for speed. He and the granite fought a bitter fight each day down there in the cave, lighted only by the flickering candles casting weird distorted shadows on the dank walls as the rattlers hissed and rasped in the far darkness.

On a brilliant day in late April the second year he came up out of the blackness and blinked in the sunlight. It was time to go home to supper and the chores. He filled his lungs with the air, the grand spiced air.

He felt young again. He started walking home, lithe and sure-footed. He recalled vividly how he had dragged home with the rabbit weighting him down that first morning. He was a lot nearer the treasure now, the shining yellow gold and the sparkling silver.

In the yard, he noticed the red flash of Sarah's geraniums and the multi-colored beauty of the nasturtiums she had added around the porch steps. He didn't get to sit on the porch much nowadays, except on Sundays when neighbors dropped by; something they hadn't done for years, until his success with the corn and turkeys.

He bounded up the steps. Sarah came to the door and kissed him.

The smell of good food—steak, potatoes, greens with bacon, an apple pie—came to him. He put his arms around her.

"Matt..."

"Yes, Sarah."

"We're going to have a baby."

He let her go and reached behind him, grasped the rawhide tilt-em-back chair and sat down weakly. He stared at her. The thought came to him, something we never expected, a boy to hunt and fish, to teach about the woods, to grow the best corn in the county.

He rose, picked her up and carried her to a chair. Then he got down on his knees and put his head in her lap. She stroked his hair, the back of his sunburned neck. They had no need of words.

BUT the next day he felt he must celebrate. He raced through the morning work, cranked the Model T and headed for Lampasas.

He drove along conscious only of a new joy in sights and sounds and smells. He noticed with fresh appreciation the carpeting of the bluebonnets amid the scrub oaks and cedars. He watched a road runner's antics, smiling at its darting gait and soaring leaps. He smiled down at the deep green water of Sulphur Creek, lazy in light and shadow. He sniffed the pungent odor of the cedar leaves giving forth their elusive perfume.

At his brother Ed's store he found half a dozen farmers and cowmen drinking Dr. Pepper or root beer and talking about the dry weather.

"Ol' Matt doesn't have to worry, though," chaffed Ollie Sparks from up at Nix. "He's got Yancy Creek all corralled for hisself."

He realized they were joking with him. They were noticing him. There was good-humored raillery in their eyes.

"Well, I'm the lowest down user there is on that ol' creek, so who's going to stop me?" he replied.

They laughed and slapped their legs, and he knew he had made a joke.

"What you in town for?" asked his brother Ed, tying up a packet of corn meal.

"Vittles," he said.

"Eatin' mighty high these days, ain't you, Matt?" asked Ollie. "Them turkeys was sure beauties."

"I'm trying to get better ones this year."

He felt as if he wanted to celebrate though he was too shy to tell about the baby, even to his brother Ed. He walked around the little crowded store looking at the shelves, peering into the smudged candy case. First, he picked out a lace-trimmed nightgown. Then he remembered Sarah used to like gumdrops when they were courting.

He bought twenty-five cents' worth, a huge bag of the garishly colored sugar-sprinkled candy.

The ranchers were talking about the threat to the range from the drought, about the way they were going to have to scratch to make a living. He

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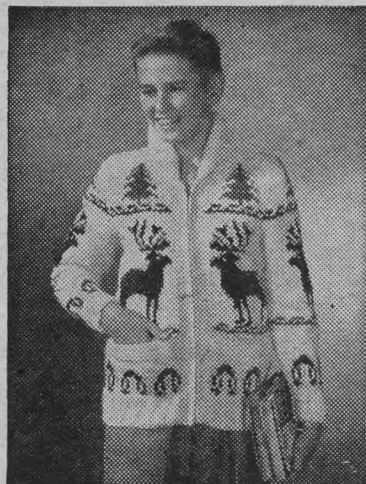
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half-listened as he surveyed the shelves. He bought some fancy canned goods, a slab of cheese, some veal chops and a lot of staples.

From force of habit, he got twenty pounds of blasting powder.

"If things git too bad I'm goin' to git me a pick and go prospecting," Ollie was saying. "Might be a little gold around here somewhere."

"Natural or treasure?" somebody asked.

This got a laugh.

"No treasure for me," said Ollie. "I ain't lookin' for no rainbows."

"Reminds me of what a feller did out in California," cut in Johnnie McCrea who had travelled around a lot. "Ol' Pegleg Smith was s'posed to have found a whole mountain top of gold back in the 1800's. Everybody out there hunts for the lost Pegleg Mine. Well, this feller I knew out by Indio got hold of a dozen wooden legs, and planted them all over the whole danged desert. From then on, the tenderfeet come bustin' into town every few months with a wooden leg and start filin' claims, thinkin' they've really found Pegleg's bonanza."

"Don't have to go to California for that," drawled Fats Waldrup from Lometa. "My granddaddy pulled the same kind of stunt right here. Only it was a bottle. He got an old blue bottle and fixed up a treasure note about Injuns and jack loads of silver and gold and planted it out somewhere in the Devil's Gut. At least, that's where he told me; I never seen it. Guess nobody's ever found it yet."

"Kinda mean, warn't it?" asked Ollie.

"Grandpa had a funny sense of humor, all right," agreed Fats. "But ain't no harm done. I guess it's laying out there yet."

In a few minutes, somebody said, "Where's Matt?"

"Done cut out for home, I guess. He works all the time."

"Well, I'll be danged," said Matt's brother Ed. "He forgot his blastin' powder. First time that ever happened."

At the little rickety bridge over Yancy, Matt got out of his old Ford and looked down at the water flowing over the gravel and boulders. The sun was already down. A pink glow silhouetted Sugar Loaf Mesa and cast a faint reflection on the miles of cedar brakes stretching toward the far Colorado. It was warm. A little breeze was coming up from the south, with just a hint of cedar on the wing.

From his pocket Matt took the blue bottle. It had never left him since he picked it up on a day that now seemed so long ago. He peered at the bottle, at the rolled-up brownish paper inside. He looked over toward his own fertile acres, at the little dam diverting the irrigation water. From the stockade beyond the field came the raucous gobble-gobble of old Big Boy. He could see two of his new heifers moving in the pasture. It reminded him of his tasks.

He leaned over the bridge railing and aimed carefully. The blue bottle dropped on a granite boulder and shattered into a hundred slivers. The brown paper bobbed away toward the Colorado and oblivion.

Matt Lamar got back in his car beside the big bag of gumdrops and drove on, in the warm twilight past his own land, toward home and the real treasures of Yancy Creek.



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The Countrywoman

THE lady walked right into our territory and launched her argument to an audience of women and some six or eight men. The occasion was the mid-January meeting of the Winnipeg local of the Canadian Association of Consumers. Those present were alert and interested to hear the guest speaker from the East. She is an able lawyer who has specialized in the field of corporation law and was the second woman in Canada to have conferred upon her the honor of being named a Queen's Counsel.

Miss Margaret Hyndman, Q.C., is general counsel for the Institute of Edible Oils, Ottawa—a newly created organization representing growers of oil-bearing seeds, edible oil processors and margarine manufacturers in Canada. She took a prominent and effective part in the appeal carried to the Supreme Court of Canada, in regard to a law passed in 1886 and set down in the Dominion Statutes books, which prohibited the manufacture, sale and import of oleomargarine products in this country. Various efforts had been made to have it amended or repealed but none had met with success. The decision made and the ruling given by the highest court in the land, in 1948, was that the law in question "was ultra vires the Government of Canada."

Thus, it was clearly evident and quickly realized that the highly controversial matter rested with the provinces. In 1949, various legislatures introduced suitable legislation permitting manufacture and governing conditions under which "margarine" might be colored, labelled, advertised and sold.

Miss Hyndman claimed that: "There was a remarkable similarity in the legislation enacted by the provinces."

Those in government administrative service responsible for carrying out duties say, on the other hand, that there is frequent complaint from the margarine industry that there are too many differences in provincial regulations for their convenience and comfort in business. In Alberta, it is noted, the margarine act comes under the department of trade and commerce.

Let's get the position in regard to margarine in Canada today clearly in mind before we continue with Miss Hyndman's complaints of discrimination in taxes and restriction in freedom of choice.

Newfoundland permitted the manufacture, coloring and sale of margarine, free from sales tax, before joining the federation of Canadian provinces. These remain intact and undisturbed.

Two provinces: Quebec and Prince Edward Island, do not permit the manufacture or sale of oleomargarine or its products.

Seven provinces enacted laws permitting manufacture and sale, with restrictions as to the degree of "yellow or yellow and red" coloring of margarine. In three out of the seven, bills seeking to alter color restrictions have been brought into succeeding legislative sessions. In Ontario and Manitoba they were rejected.

British Columbia amended its act, removing restrictions on color.

The telling phrase "such restrictions are 'frivolous and vexatious'" beloved by the legal fraternity, Miss Hyndman said, had been used effectively by the late Hon. Mrs. Tilly Jean Rolston, during the debate in the B.C. legislature.

Battle on Consumer Front

SEEING that the battle is now joined on the consumer front—which means the women's front, it should be noted by farmers, agriculturists, dairymen and nutritionists, that the "oil" people are using top-flight women to talk to other women. Sheaves of booklets and press releases are finding their way to desks of editors in charge of women's pages. The "dairy" people, on the other hand, have confined their educational efforts to papers and addresses, excellent in themselves, delivered to con-

Skirmishes on the consumer front now addressed to women, should alert Canadians to issues involved in the major agricultural industry and of concern to provincial governments

by AMY J. ROE

ventions of producers—who are, in almost every case, men—and to literature sent to their own membership and to government departments and universities.

"This is a straight competition between two agricultural products: oils and milk," declared Miss Hyndman to the consumers' meeting in Winnipeg. "There should be free competition between the margarine and dairy industries. Edible oils are not synthetic. They are natural products from vegetable plant sources. They are fortified with vitamin A and some vitamin D, the former remains a constant factor. Margarine is a nutritious, energy food, which is sold cheaper than butter.

"Margarine is the only food where a specific color is banned," she said. "If artificial coloring is wrong

we have the vexatious point of degree of color permitted to margarine.

Let's examine the regulation, set down under Section 5 of the Manitoba Margarine Act, permissive as from June 1, 1949, affecting margarine, possessed or offered for sale, which must not have "... a tint or shade containing more than one and six-tenths (1.6) degrees of yellow, or yellow and red collectively measured in the terms of the Lovibond tintometer scale, or the equivalent of such measurement."

The amendment sought and rejected during the 1954 legislative session asked that the color regulation be altered "... to three and one-half degrees (3.5) of yellow or of red and yellow collectively" measured by the same scale. The bill was defeated 33 to 18 by Manitoba's legislature.

Butter offered for sale in Canada may range from 3.5 to 6.7 rating of color, by the same scale. June butter may range from 5. to 6.5 by the same scale. Oddly enough many buyers object to the high coloring of June butter and it is sold with difficulty to uninformed customers. Canadians seem to prefer butter in lighter shades and it will be noted that the amendments sought by margarine supporters would give margarine the same color as much butter now being sold on the market.

Color—A Natural Trade-Mark

ONTARIO had a similar experience with a bill to amend the existing act governing manufacture and sale of margarine. A petition was circulated in various constituencies, urging the elected representatives of the people to support the measure. Hon. Leslie M. Frost, premier, in a speech before the legislature, quoted from an advertisement running in the papers, containing the petition reading:

"I wish to protest the margarine color ban. This is above party politics. I hope you will vote to put the yellow back in margarine. ... I sincerely believe that most Ontario people feel as I do, that this law is unfair and absolutely unnecessary."

"When," asked Ontario's premier, "was there ever yellow in margarine? How can you put anything 'back,' which was never 'in,' and is not there now?" Then proceeding to the underlying principle: "It is not a question of banning margarine. It is a question of preventing its sale as butter.

"Farmers have felt," Mr. Frost said, "that the color of butter was their trade-mark ... This color, agriculturists of today feel, is their color ... having been so regarded for 1,000 years or more. They feel that they are entitled to protection from that standpoint, and this house has almost unanimously accepted their point of view."

"We are on sound ground fighting to prevent oleomargarine from masquerading as butter," said T. L. Townsend in his presidential address to the Manitoba Dairy Association in February, 1952.

Gordon Loveridge, vice-president of Dairy Farmers of Canada, speaking to the 1953 meeting of the same organization, spoke of points of policy considered by the Dairy Farmers of Canada during 1953, saying: "The chief problem was the threat that substitute products would make further inroads in replacing butterfats in dairy foods. The threat is to the best market we have: fluid milk, ice cream, whipping and table cream and even to cheese markets. This can occur either in part or whole, and no reliable test is presently available to distinguish up to 30 per cent adulteration. Consumers should be concerned because of the possibilities of fraud. As this is a matter of provincial jurisdiction, dairy farmers feel that every effort should be made by provincial groups to get legislation prohibiting the manufacture and sale of products made with oils, other than butterfat, in imitation of and substituted for dairy foods."

Miss Hyndman said: "We, the consumers, are being out-manuevered (Please turn to page 56)

Consider the Cow

AS FEMALE OF HER SPECIES, A MAGNIFICENT FIGURE

Often called foster mother of the human race.

In ability to convert plants into human food, she is the most efficient among bovines.

She is a pillar of health to the nation. No other agricultural product has equivalent nutritional value to the milk she produces.

Her milk sustains humans, providing necessary fats, proteins and minerals.

As consumer, the dairy cow normally puts away double the roughage of beef cows.

In the slaughterhouse, in conversion into human food, the dairy cow is regarded as the most efficient of all livestock.

in itself, then the dairy industry must plead guilty, since dairymen add coloring to winter butter, when its vitamin A content is low. The consumer has no way of knowing, when she buys winter butter, that its vitamin A is lower."

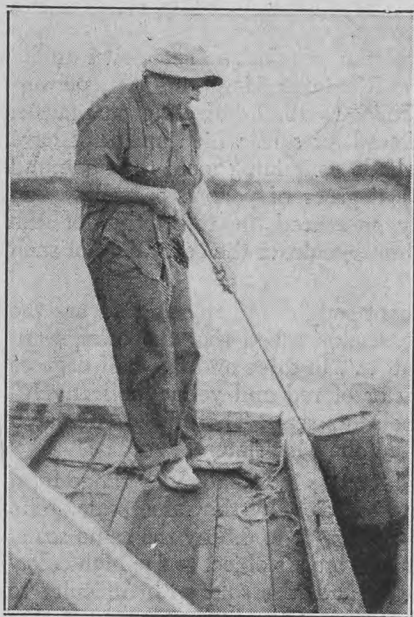
Yes, Miss Hyndman! For a thousand years or more, farm people and many others have known that butter made from cream from cows grazing on green pastures, differs in degree of color from that produced from cows on winter fodder. Farm women doing their own churning have added "color" or not as their family fancied. But there was no thought of fraud or evasion about it—nor is there today when dairies have taken over the huge churning job. Whether of summer or winter making, butter has remained an excellent and recognized adequate source of vitamin A—a vital factor in the health of eyes, hair, skin and the mucus lining of the body.

When dairy processes became industrialized, it became necessary to put down specifications as to contents, water, salt, color, etc., of butter. It is a matter of considerable regret that no one thought then of taking out, in the name of the farmers or of the cows, a "trade-mark" for butter, milk, cheese and cream with their distinguishing characteristics itemized and protected against "substitutes." Now

A Jack in Jeans

Call her a lumberjack or a log picker, Lydia Martin's chosen job is an unusual one for a woman

by J. RAE TOOKE



The job requires strong muscles.

BEING a lumberjack hardly seems a job for a woman but Mrs. Lydia Martin of Rainy River, Ontario, is one.

When Lydia dons her blue jeans and heads a power boat toward a raft, anchored upstream from her home on the outskirts of town, she is after logs. She can handle them any size—the bigger the better.

We looked puzzled. There wasn't a log to be seen on the river.

"They're at the bottom," she explained. "Been there, and still in good shape, for over 50 years. They were 'sinkers' from booms that lined the bank here around the turn of the century when the busy logging center was called Beaver Mills. The woodman's axe and a disastrous forest fire put an end to large-scale logging. But there's still plenty big ones down on the river bottom and I'm after them."

Four years ago the Martins were farmers in the district. One day while fixing machinery, Gus Martin had the misfortune to burn his eyes with hot babbitt. Following this catastrophe they moved to Rainy River.

In town, Mrs. Martin tried housework and store jobs to augment the family budget but she was, at heart, an outdoor person. She likes elbow room and freedom of action. Restrictions of time and place irk her. She heard of some young men who were "log-pickers." They picked logs from the river bottom and sold them at a neat profit to a small sawmill downstream.

"I can do that too," Lydia declared.

With what help Gus could give, she built a raft. It is a sturdy craft made from trees on their property, scrap iron from the town dump, and some real lumber from the sawmill. The steel hauling cable costing \$12 was the most expensive item.

On one end of the raft there is an iron winch or windlass. A drum on this windlass is circled by the steel cable which runs on out over a heavy beam to dangle in the water. Fastened to the cable's end is an iron spear with a corkscrew point. This spear fits loosely into a metal ferrule on the end of a pike pole used for probing the

river bottom. To her it is a very precious pike pole.

"We had to go 16 miles into the country to get just the right sort. It is 17 feet long. It had to be straight, not too heavy for handling but stout enough to stand the force of driving the spear into the log," she said.

Lydia puts the spear into the ferruled end of the pike pole and holds it there by the cable running up along the pole shaft. If she doesn't strike a log by probing all around the edge of the raft, she lifts anchor and drifts to a new location. She is sensitive to the feel of her strike and knows when she has hit a log. When it is the real thing she drives the spear home with a few up and down thrusts of the pole. This is perhaps the hardest part of the job.

"I have to do a certain amount of it each day to keep my arm muscles in shape," she says with a determined smile.

With the spear driven in, the pike pole laid aside, she winds up the cable on the windlass. It is a moment as full of excitement as any experienced by a real angler.

She pointed to a row of bubbles rising on the surface. They indicated the length of the pole. "It's a big one," she shouted. And it was! A well-preserved, 10-foot pine. The next was a little six-footer. It would make a couple of two-by-fours and a small board and bring about 50 cents. That would pay for some gasoline and a bit of tethering rope, items which make up her chief running expenses.

Sometimes a big log gets away to be bragged about in true fisherman manner. One that did get away from Mrs. Martin broke the spear off the cable. Another was so big it was pulling the raft under and she had to go for Gus to help land it. It was a 12-foot poplar that netted her \$15.

Her day's catch may include a red pine, a birch, a tamarack and a poplar. She could not tell us the exact price of logs tethered around the dock waiting their turn at the mill. Pine and tamarack would bring the highest price. Birch was heaviest and took longer to dry—perhaps a year after it was cut. Boards from the other logs could be ready for sale in a few weeks.

The Martins' house is made mostly from salvaged lumber. So is Rainy River's big new community hall.

She begins her log-picking as soon as the river settles down in the spring and keeps on into the fall as long as the weather is fine. Gus is nervous about her going too far afield. Other pickers respect his feelings. "We'll leave those near her home for Lyd," they say.

Formerly big logging camps flourished along the river. Records show that in 1874 one company milled 98,000 feet of lumber which sold for

\$25 per thousand. The next year they sold 240,000 feet at \$22 per thousand. In 1882 production had reached the 577,000 mark but a business recession had cut prices in half.

In 1910 disaster struck. Fire wiped out 50,000,000 feet of timber in the area. A pall of smoke drifted across Manitoba and on to Saskatchewan in the fire that claimed 42 human lives. Families driven from their homes, spent days and nights in boats on the river, while burning embers fell about and heat from blazing trees scorched their faces.

This same river bore Pierre de la Verandrye, the intrepid French explorer, to his discovery of western Canada. Near the present townsite of Rainy River his son, daring the wild-

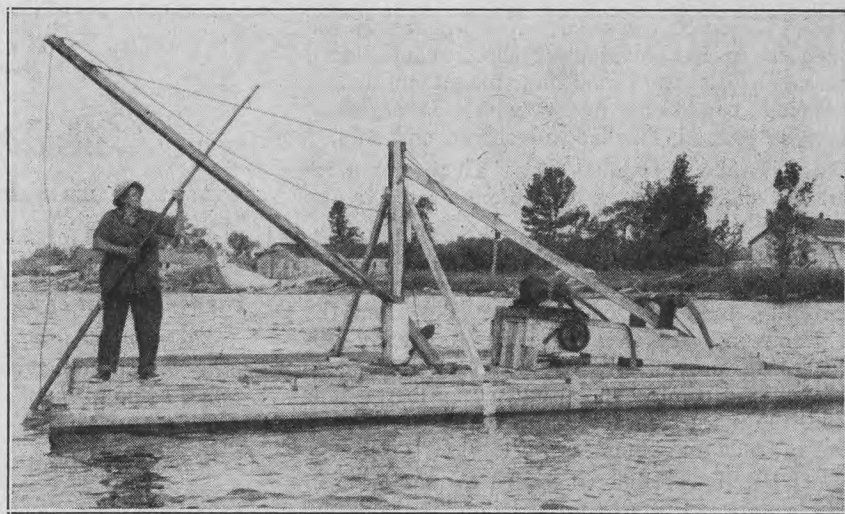
erness with a band of followers, was hacked to pieces by hostile Indians.

There are hazards in Lydia's present part-time job. Once when the spear pulled out of a log, the cable-beam swung round injuring her shoulder and almost knocked her into the river. She likes to be out on the raft in early morning, before the river is noisy and cluttered with speed boats and other craft; or on warm summer evenings.

She fits her time on the raft in between household tasks and makes more from a few hours of work than she could from a whole day employed as a day cleaner or baby sitter. She is rather at a loss to explain her feelings about her strenuous job. Her arms moved in an expansive circle as she said to us:

"It makes me feel part of the big things that have happened along this river."

It was clear from the enthusiasm lighting her sun-tanned face that Lydia Martin enjoys every minute of being a jack in jeans.



Raft fitted with windlass, cable and pike pole. Martin house to right of sawmill.

A Doubting Thomas

An attitude of trying to find true or false answers provoked some interesting experiences

by GLORIA LOGAN

I'VE always been a doubting Thomas. When younger, this "show-me" attitude got me into a great deal of trouble. It also taught me that quite a few of those old sayings and superstitions are mostly pure fiction. Just enough of them were true to make the whole thing interesting. I never knew what would happen when I tried something.

Take the time my grandfather told about the silly little boy who touched his tongue to a cold axe in mid-January and had it frozen solid. I sidled away from the rest of the children and bolted for the woodshed. My tongue was sore for weeks but I had proved something. Mentally, I checked off another experience on my true-false list.

Break a mirror and you'll have seven years' bad luck, my older sister warned. But I threw it on a rock anyway. The next day I found a ten-dollar bill and grandfather's old Rover dog bit me on

the heel. I classed this one under "doubtful."

When Uncle Sandy told about the time he was lost in the woods and had to smoke dried leaves in his pipe, I went out behind the barn and smoked dried burdock leaves in my old clay bubble pipe. The hired man found me while I could still stagger and we signed an armed truce. I swore him to secrecy. He made me promise not to pester him when he was courting the teacher who boarded with us.

I had an almost irrepressible urge to prove things and kept my big "pitcher" ears tuned in on every adult conversation. But the thing that sticks out in my mind best is the day I ate the frog legs.

Our teacher had told us that frog legs were considered a great delicacy by the French. I could scarcely wait for school to be dismissed. At three (Please turn to page 62)

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the jar with
the stars on
top!



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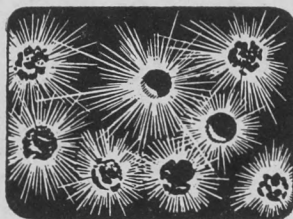
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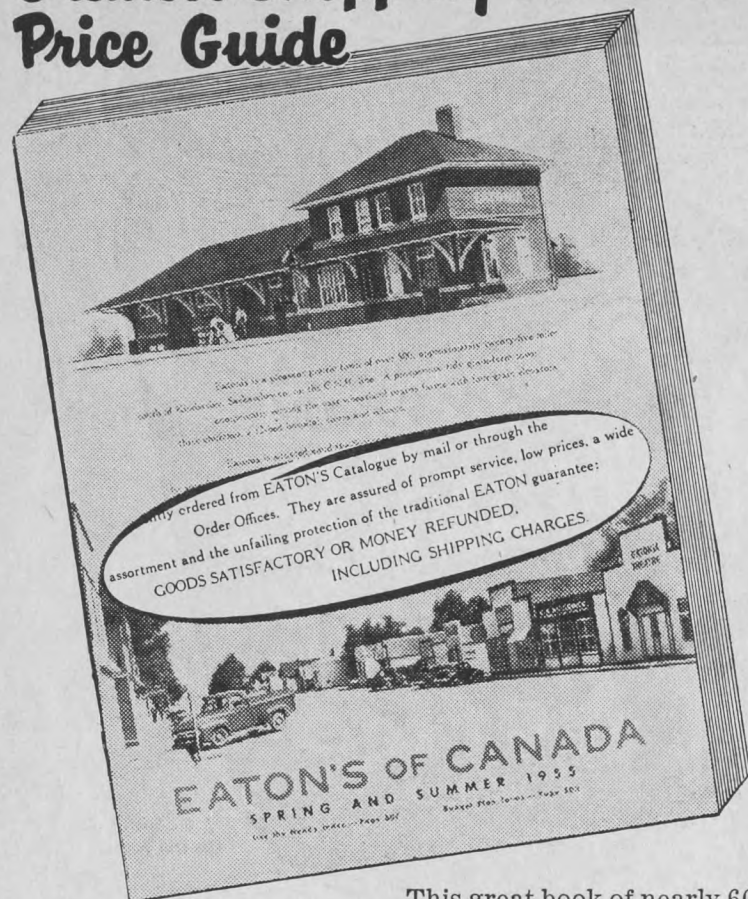
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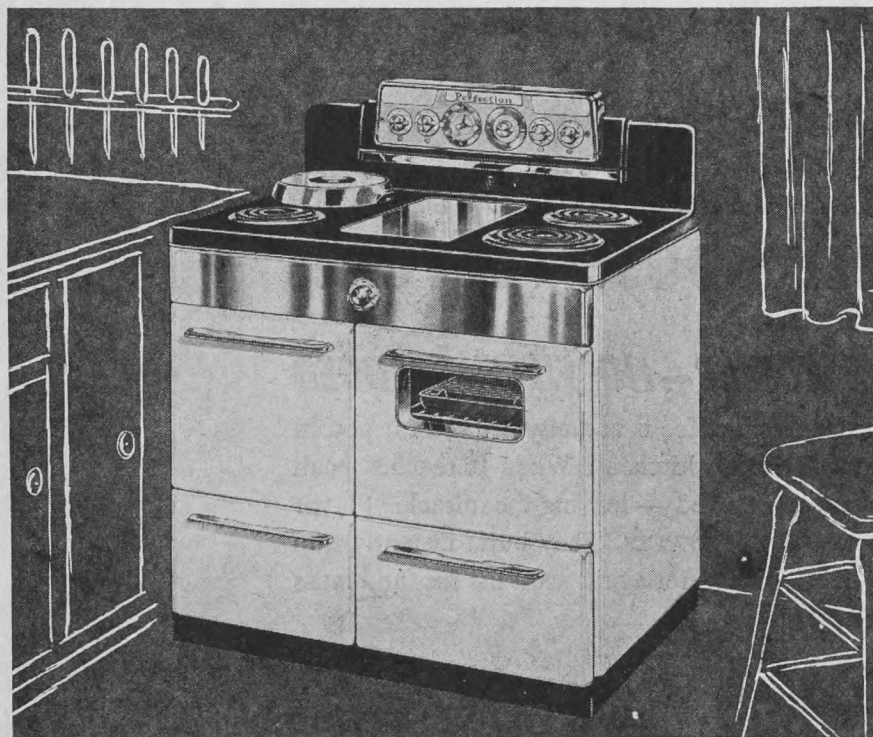


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After-School Snacks

Easy-to-make and nutritious, they satisfy appetites 'til dinner is ready

WHEN the children arrive home cold and hungry, from school, have ready an after-school snack that will tide them over until dinnertime.

Choose foods that are easily digested and that will not rob them of their appetites come dinnertime. Left-over luncheon dessert such as rice or other milk pudding, upside-down cake, an apple, fudge or caramel pudding is satisfying and delicious. Or serve hot chocolate or milk with cookies, two or three thin slices of buttered quick bread, easy-to-store loaf cake, a fresh-from-the-oven cinnamon bun or a piece of coffee cake.

Drop cookies can be mixed in a few minutes and are just right for after school. Make them fairly large and not too sweet. Oatmeal, whole wheat or raisins add nutrients as well as flavor. For a change serve the remainder of the coffee cake. It is ready in no time at all. And for a special treat, the applesauce cake is quickly made and easily stored.

Soft Molasses Cookies

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 7 c. sifted flour | 1 1/2 c. sugar |
| 4 tsp. soda | 2 c. table molasses |
| 1 T. salt | 2 T. vinegar |
| 1 T. cinnamon | 2 eggs |
| 1 T. ginger | 3/4 c. milk |
| 1 tsp. cloves | |
| 1 c. shortening | |

Sift together flour, soda, salt and spices. Melt shortening in saucepan large enough for mixing cookies. Stir in sugar, molasses and vinegar. Cool. Beat in eggs. Add sifted flour alternately with milk. Chill dough 30 minutes. Drop from tablespoon onto greased cookie sheet. Bake 12 to 15 minutes in a 400° F. oven. Makes 6 to 7 dozen 3 1/2-inch cookies.

Chocolate Drop Cookies

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1/2 c. shortening | 1 tsp. baking powder |
| 1 1/4 c. brown sugar | 1/4 tsp. soda |
| 2 eggs | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 2 squares chocolate | 1/2 tsp. vanilla |
| 2 T. milk | 1/2 to 1 c. nuts |
| 2 c. flour | |

Sift dry ingredients. Cream shortening, add sugar gradually, beating between additions. Add well-beaten eggs and melted chocolate and mix well. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk. Fold in chopped nuts. Drop dough by small spoonfuls on buttered baking sheet, spacing to allow for spreading. Bake at 375° F. for 10 to 12 minutes.

Whole Wheat Cookies

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 c. sifted flour | 1 c. brown sugar |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 c. raisins |
| 1/2 tsp. soda | 1/2 to 1 c. chopped nuts |
| 1 tsp. baking powder | 1 beaten egg |
| 1/2 c. butter | 1/3 c. sour milk |
| 1 c. whole wheat flour | 1/2 tsp. vanilla |

Sift together sifted flour, salt, soda and baking powder. Add whole wheat flour, raisins and nuts. Cream butter, cream sugar in gradually. Add beaten egg. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk. Add vanilla. Mix thoroughly. Add more flour if necessary. Drop from teaspoon on buttered baking sheet and bake at 400° F. for 10 minutes.



Molasses cookies with milk is favorite after-four snack.

Applesauce Cake

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1 1/2 c. raisins | 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder |
| 1/2 c. shortening | 3/4 tsp. salt |
| 1 1/2 c. brown sugar, well packed | 1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon |
| 2 eggs | 3/4 tsp. ground cloves |
| 1 1/2 c. thick, unsweetened applesauce | 3/4 tsp. nutmeg |
| 3 c. sifted cake flour | 3/4 c. nuts |

Cover raisins with boiling water and set aside for a few minutes until plump. Cream shortening. Add sugar gradually, beating until well mixed. Add eggs and mix well. Stir in applesauce. Sift together flour, baking soda, salt and spices. Stir in creamed mixture. Drain raisins well. Add to batter with nuts. Pour into greased cake pan about 13 by 9 inches. Bake in 300° F. oven for 1 1/4 hours. When cool top with lemon icing.

Lemon Icing

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1/2 c. butter | 3 c. sifted icing sugar |
| Grated rind of 1 lemon | 1 T. water |

2 T. lemon juice
Cream butter, add grated peel and blend. Add 1 1/4 c. icing sugar gradually. Stir in lemon juice and water. Add rest of icing sugar, mixing until icing has a creamy, spreading consistency.

Coffee Crumb Cake

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 3 c. sifted flour | 2 tsp. ground cinnamon |
| 1 1/2 c. sugar | 2/3 c. shortening |
| 4 tsp. baking powder | 2 eggs |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 1/2 c. cold coffee |
| 1 tsp. nutmeg | 3/4 c. chopped nuts |

Sift together flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and spices. Cut in shortening until like coarse crumbs. Reserve 3/4 c. for top of cake. To remaining crumb mixture add well-beaten eggs and coffee. Mix lightly. Pour into cake dish about 12 by 7 inches. Sprinkle top of cake with remaining crumb mixture and chopped nuts. Bake in 350° F. oven for 35 to 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Serve warm or cold.

Oatmeal Icebox Cookies

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 c. shortening | 2 1/4 c. flour |
| 2 c. brown sugar, packed | 2 tsp. baking soda |
| 2 eggs | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 tsp. vanilla | 2 c. rolled oats |
| 1 c. raisins | 1 c. walnuts |

Cream shortening well; add sugar. Beat in eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Grind raisins, using the coarse blade on the food chopper. Add with vanilla. Sift flour with salt and soda. Add to mixture. Blend in rolled oats and chopped walnuts. Form into rolls about 2 inches in diameter. Roll in wax paper and chill. Slice in 1/4-inch slices. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet at 350° F. for 15 to 20 minutes.

Start with Ground Beef

for tasty, easy-to-fix meals for family or guests

GROUND beef tops the list of meats for easy, inexpensive meals. And, whether it is served, seasoned with salt and pepper, as hamburgers or with tomatoes, onions or rice and additional seasonings as a one-dish meal it is sure to bring requests for seconds all around.

Buy good quality beef, already ground, or, if you prefer, grind it as you use it. Select beef chuck or plate for grinding and put it through the coarse blade of the food chopper only once. As with other ground meats keep it well wrapped in the coldest part of the refrigerator and use it within two days of grinding.

To give the seasonings an opportunity to penetrate the meat, make hamburgers or other ground meat mixtures well ahead of time. Use a light hand for mixing and divide it into portions for cooking or shape it into a loaf then return it to the frig' until cooking time. A dash of M.S.G., or monosodium glutamate, will bring out the full flavor of the beef.

Bacon-Beef Roll-ups

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 8 to 10 slices | 1 c. shredded |
| bacon | sharp cheese |
| 2 lbs. ground beef | 3 T. Worcestershire sauce |
| 1/4 c. chopped onion | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 egg, beaten | 1/2 tsp. pepper |
| 3 T. catsup | |

Place bacon on a board so that the lean edge overlaps preceding strip. Combine beef, onion, egg and cheese. Season with catsup, Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper; mix well. Press and roll the meat mixture into a 10-inch roll. Place the meat roll on the bacon and draw the strips around the meat. Fasten with tooth picks. Slice in 1-inch rounds so that a slice of bacon surrounds each slice of meat. Broil or fry about 5 minutes on each side.

Chili Meat Balls

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1/2 lb. ground beef | 1 c. water |
| 1/2 lb. ground pork | 1/2 c. chopped onion |
| 1 egg | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1/4 c. milk | 1 tsp. chili powder |
| 1/3 c. rice | 1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce |
| 2 c. canned tomatoes | |

Mix meats. Add egg, milk, rice, 1/4 c. chopped onion, 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/2 tsp. chili powder. Form into 6 2-inch balls, brown in a little hot fat. Combine tomatoes, water, 1/4 c. onion, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. chili powder and Worcestershire sauce. Heat to boiling, drop in meat balls. Cook slowly 1 hour. Hot buttered whole kernel corn surrounding meat balls served in individual casseroles is suggested for serving. Serves 4 to 6.

Ovenburgers

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce |
| 2 T. horseradish | 1/4 c. soft bread crumbs |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 egg, beaten |
| 1 tsp. prepared mustard | |
| 1 tsp. catsup | |

Combine meat and seasonings. Add crumbs and egg; mix well. Shape in 6 patties; place in baking dish. Bake at 350° F. for 20 minutes. Serves 6.

Upside-down Meat Loaf

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| 1/2 lb. ground pork | 1 tsp. dry mustard |
| 1/2 lb. ground veal | 2 eggs, beaten |
| 1/2 c. finely chopped onion | 1 T. Worcestershire sauce |
| 1/2 c. finely chopped celery and tops | 3 c. soft bread crumbs |
| 2 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 c. milk |

Mix meats thoroughly. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well. Pack in a 9 1/2-by-5-by-3-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350° F. for 20 minutes. Loosen around edges then invert on a shallow baking pan. With handle of wooden spoon score top. Bake uncovered in moderate 350° F. oven for 1 hour. Top with tomato topping: Combine one 8-ounce can seasoned tomato sauce, 2 T. horseradish, 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce and 1/4 tsp. tabasco sauce. Heat to boiling. Spread over baked loaf. Serves 6 to 8.

Meat and Onion Rings

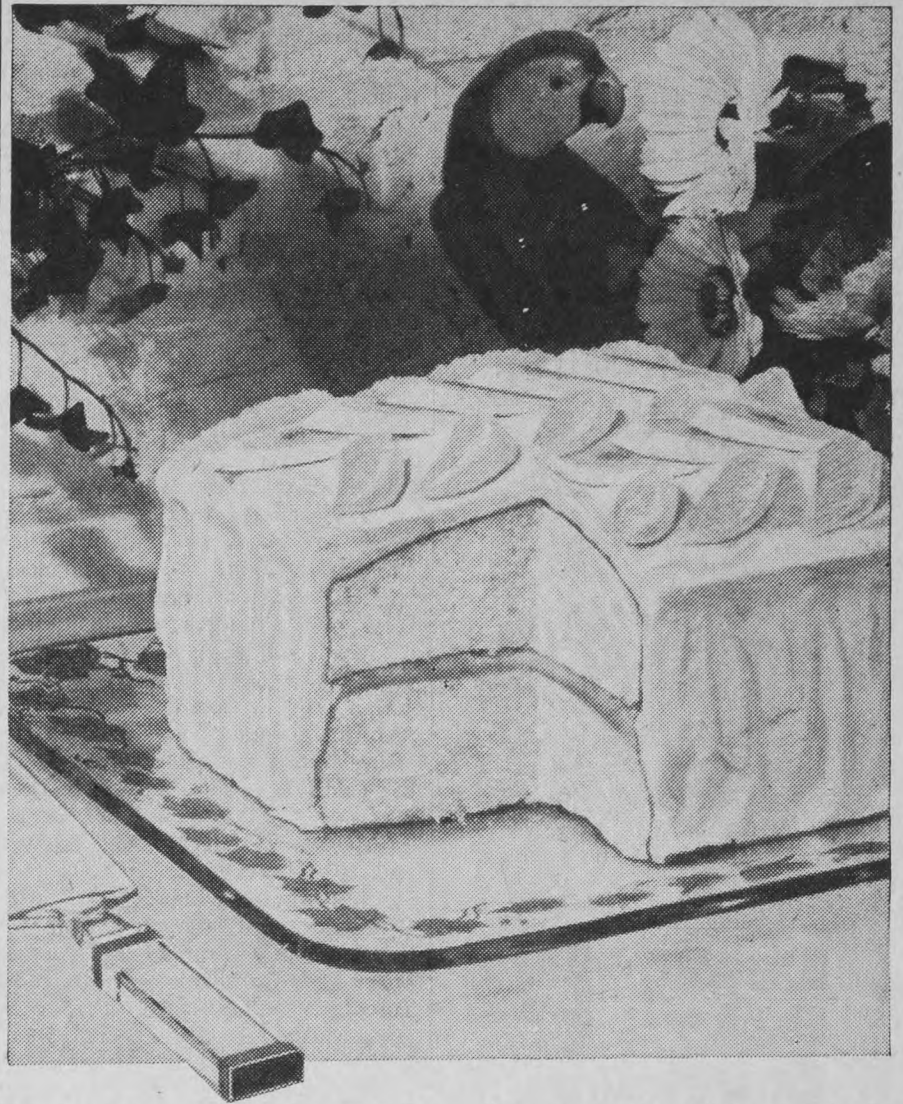
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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6 small onions | 1/2 c. chopped green pepper |
| 2 lbs. ground beef | 2 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 1/2 c. chopped onion | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| 2 c. soft bread crumbs | 1 tsp. dry mustard |
| 1 c. chili sauce | 2 T. horseradish |
| | 6 slices bacon |

Precook onions in boiling salted water for 15 minutes; drain. Thoroughly combine meat, chopped onion, crumbs, green pepper, seasonings and 1/2 c. chili sauce. Divide into 6 equal portions. Place in individual casseroles or bakers and shape into rings like big doughnuts. Center with whole onions. Top each onion with bacon strip. Bake at 350° F. for 45 minutes. Spread remaining 1/2 c. chili sauce over meat and return to oven. Bake 5 minutes longer. Serves 6.

Hot Tamale Pie

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 c. chopped onion | 1 T. chili powder |
| 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef | 3/4 c. chopped ripe olives |
| 1 can tomato soup | 3/4 c. whole kernel corn |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 recipe cornmeal muffins |
| 1/2 tsp. pepper | |

Brown onion and meat in small amount fat. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer 10 minutes while making a corn-bread topping. Pour into casserole or 11-by-7-by-2-inch baking dish. Spread corn-bread topping in strips over meat mixture. Bake in a hot oven 425° F. for 15 minutes.



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Orange-Banana Cake

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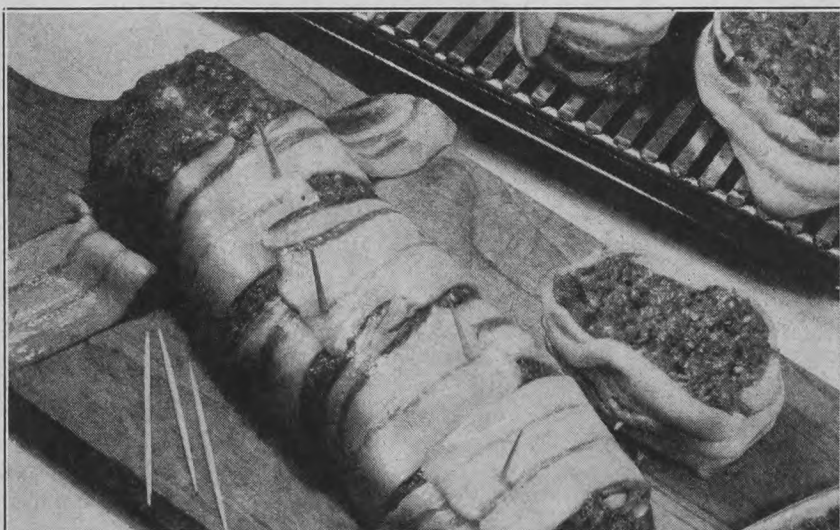
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ORANGE-BANANA CAKE

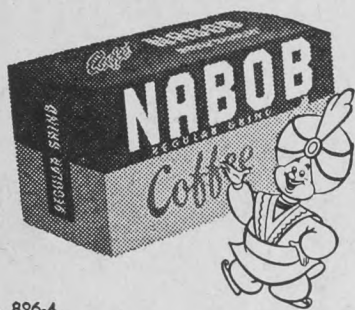
Grease two 7-inch square or 8-inch round layer-cake pans and line bottoms with greased paper. Preheat oven to 375° (moderately hot). Sift flour, Magic Baking Powder and salt together three times. Cream butter or margarine; gradually blend in sugar; add well-beaten eggs part at a time, beating well after each addition; mix in orange rind. Measure milk and add vanilla and almond extract. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture about a quarter at a time, alternating with two additions of milk and one addition of orange juice and combining lightly after each addition. Turn into prepared pans. Bake in preheated oven 25 to 30 minutes. Fill cold cake with orange cake filling; when filling is set, cover cake with the following Orange Butter Icing. Decorate with banana slices and orange segments.

ORANGE BUTTER ICING: Combine 1 1/2 tps. grated orange rind, 1 tbsp. orange juice and 1/4 tsp. lemon juice. Cream 4 tps. butter or margarine; beat in 1 egg yolk and a few grains salt. Work in 2 cups sifted icing sugar alternately with fruit rind and juices, using just enough liquid to make an icing of spreading consistency; beat in 1/4 tsp. vanilla.



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The Countrywoman

Continued from page 51

by a powerful lobby and disdainful politicians." She criticized the "political defiance and evasion of the wishes of the majority by six provincial legislatures, whose prohibition of colored margarine has the avowed object of fettering the right of free choice . . . I don't believe that the voters, especially women voters, are so disinterested in the principles of freedom, or the farmers so blinded by self-interest that any government which repealed the restrictions would go down to defeat."

Senator W. D. Euler, Kitchener, Ontario, who spearheaded the oleo attack by efforts, in 1946, 1947 and 1948, to repeal the anti-margarine clause of the Dairy Act, said at a meeting in Toronto, November 24, 1954: "If Canada's farmers will do it, they can produce enough farm product ingredients to manufacture all the margarine used in Canada. Why in the name of common sense and fairness continue to force housewives to do the coloring (of margarine) in their kitchens?"

Bryne Hope Sanders, C.B.E., well and favorably known across Canada for her former editorial work with Chatelaine, and later as Director of the Consumer Branch of Wartime Prices and Trade Board at the same Toronto meeting said "that polls taken showed last year that 63 per cent of Canadians feel that margarine producers should be able to color it the same color as butter."

Of the senator, we say that he does not know agriculture in Canada. The

best estimates released so far, place Canada's potential at 25 per cent of our domestic requirements on present needs for edible oils, according to one well-informed authority. And to Miss Sanders, our reply is that Canadian consumers simply have not had the facts presented to them. When they are given information concerning the menace of food substitutes, of which governments are now aware, they will support regulations and restrictions regarding adulteration of milk foods. And we are not going to shed tears for the ten million hours "wasted" when housewives have to mix the color pellet in margarine, for table use.

Sources of Oil

HOW is the force standing in opposition to dairying comprised? What are its basic materials?

First come the oil suppliers, often members of large corporate enterprises, which function in many countries scattered across the world. Generally speaking, they are firms associated with the handling of fats of all kinds, makers of soaps, detergents, toilet preparations, cheese, lard, shortenings and of course margarine. There is fierce competition between the various separate family-companies, each jealously guarding trade-name products and distinctive features of their special lines.

In 1953, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, 86 million pounds of oils imported into Canada went into the manufacture of margarine in this country. Palm oil came from the Belgian Congo; coconut oil from Ceylon; peanut oil from U.K., the U.S. and

(Please turn to page 58)

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smart Canadian mothers use Tide

Nothing else can beat Tide for cleaning power! Tests made in hardest water prove it . . . *nothing* else will wash as clean as Tide, yet costs so little to use! And with all this terrific cleaning power, Tide is the *mildest* detergent made, too . . . so kind to hands, so safe for *all* your washable colours. Next washday, use Tide.

P.S. Tide's also wonderful for dairy utensils—gets them *thoroughly* clean. Helps prevent milkstone . . . lowers bacteria count! So *thrifty* to use, too.



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**NOTHING ELSE WILL WASH AS CLEAN
AS CANADA'S OWN Tide
-yet costs so little to use!**

Yours for the Making

Sew-and-save ideas for use now or during first spring days

by ANNA LOREE



Design No. SS-24

For the school or pre-school tot make a pleated skirt and stole set in a gay plaid. She will be proud to wear it for every occasion. The stole has plain-color pockets at each end. The skirt is made with a smooth panel at center front and back. It has a button closing at the side and there are button-on suspenders included in the pattern. You will need 1 1/4 yards 36-inch or 1 yard 54-inch plaid for skirt and stole; 1/2 yard 36-inch or 1/4 yard 54-inch plain material for stole lining. Design No. SS-24. Price 10 cents.

Design No. E-2200

An ascot scarf can take the place of blouses in accessorizing spring suits. This scarf is easy to make and for a personal touch a monogram or other design of cord trims the front. Make it of silk. The back is stitched and corded to help hold it in place under a suit collar. One size only. You will need 1/2 yard lightweight silk; 1/4 yard waffle pique for piping and 50 inches of cable cord. Design No. E-2200. Price 10 cents.



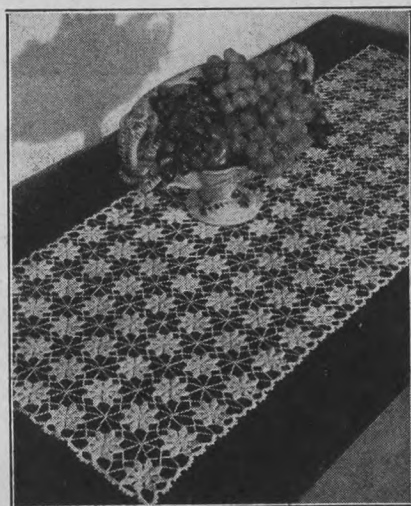
Design No. SE-2386

For the girl who likes to sew her own clothes a lightweight tweed weskit with contrasting velveteen trim is easy to make. Worn with skirts and blouses it makes an attractive costume for school or afternoon wear. You will need 5/8 yard lightweight wool tweed, 1/4 yard velveteen in contrasting color, bias tape to match the tweed and five 3/4-inch buttons to cover. Medium size only given in pattern. Design No. SE-2386. Price 10 cents.



Design No. N-107

This "field of daisies" design makes a table runner that is dainty yet sturdy. It is easily made in two-inch squares joined together as they are worked. Finished size is 15 1/2 inches by 41 inches—or you may make it any size you wish. You will need 6 balls size 30 crochet cotton and No. 10 steel hook. Daisy runner is Design No. N-107. Price 10 cents.



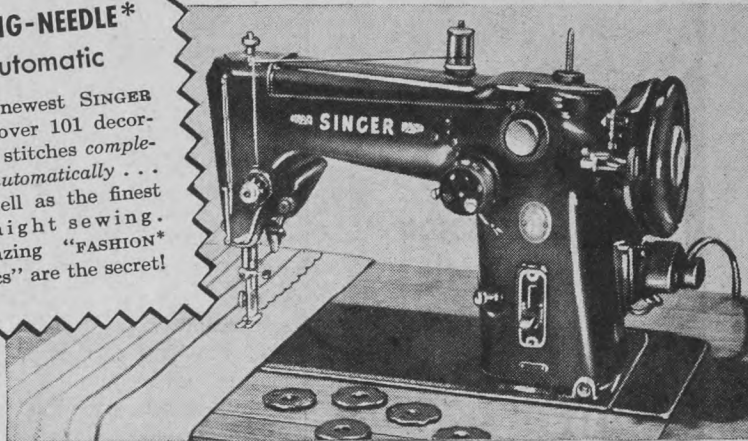
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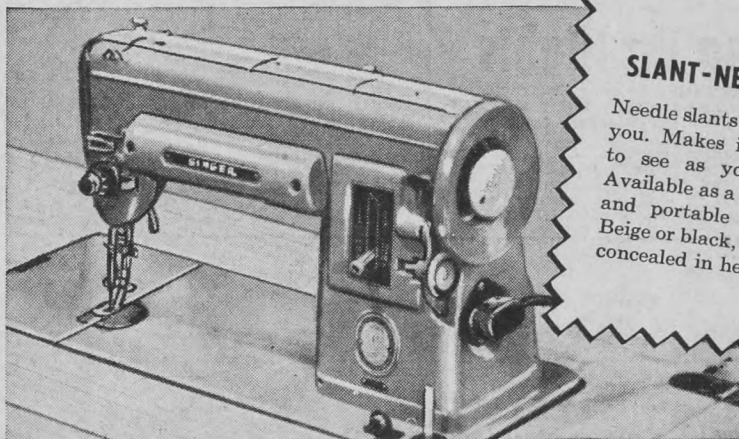
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The Countrywoman

Continued from page 56

Hong Kong; copra (dried coconut oil) from the Philippines; cottonseed and soybeans from the U.S.; eight million pounds of marine (fish) oil. The proportions of any given oil varies somewhat from year to year. No northern country in history has been able to compete with the tropics in the production of edible oils.

Dairy Farmers of Canada, with office at 409 Huron Street, Toronto, in 1952 made a study of where vegetable oils come from; standards of living in those countries including wage scales and types of agriculture; how other countries handle the margarine situation.

Soybean oil, if used for processing of leather or fibres, or in the manufacture of paint, varnishes and soaps, or in fish canning, enters Canada free of duty. Otherwise used, it is subject to from 15 to 20 per cent tariff. The process of crushing soybeans is carried on at some points in Canada. There are unlimited possibilities for substitution between oils of the two main classes; edible and non-edible oils. Manufacturers of edible oil products are not requested to distinguish between imported and domestic oils used in the making of margarine and shortening. Indeed there is a question if they maintain such records.

Manufacturers receive oils in raw form, shipped in tank cars. It is refined, deodorized so as to be bland, leaving no trace of original taste or smell of vegetable source. It is blended, bleached and then hydro-

genated so that it will have the required firmness, yet provide an easy spread. A churning or a "batch" emerges as a translucent mixture, greyish white, until the permitted 1.6 degree "yellow or yellow and red, collectively" color is added.

On the Dairy Front

Along the dairy industry front in Canada are some 400,000 milk producers and approximately three million dairy cows, which furnish the raw materials to processors and distributors. It is reported to have an annual retail trade value of \$800 million.

One out of every six persons in Canada's population is engaged one way or another in producing, processing or distributing milk and its products—leaving out the manufacture of dairy equipment and transportation.

Livestock and dairying are tied in with the conservation of soils, the rotation of crops, the utilization of grass and other forage crops, upon which depends the permanency of Canadian agriculture's future.

The three prairie provinces produce 26 per cent of Canada's milk. They constitute a butter surplus area. The surplus is "exported" to deficit areas: British Columbia, Ontario and the Maritime provinces. Following 1949, within two years, prairie butter production had decreased 25 million pounds annually although the population had increased in the meantime.

Dr. H. R. Thornton, head of the department of dairying, University of Alberta, in a paper presented to the Agricultural Institute of Canada, at (Please turn to page 62)

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BASIC ONE-RISING SPECIALTY DOUGH

Measure into a large bowl

- 1 cup lukewarm water
- 2 teaspoons granulated sugar

and stir until sugar is dissolved.

Sprinkle with contents of

- 2 envelopes Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well, stir in

- 1 1/4 cups lukewarm water
- 3 teaspoons salt

Stir in

- 4 cups once-sifted bread flour

and beat until batter is smooth and very elastic.

Cream in a large bowl

- 3/4 cup butter or margarine

Gradually blend in

- 3/4 cup fine granulated sugar

Gradually beat in

- 3 well-beaten eggs

Add to yeast mixture, about a third at a time, beating well after each addition.

Mix in

- 3 cups more once-sifted bread flour

Divide soft dough into 3 bowls to finish as three specialties.



1. Butterscotch Nut Buns Melt 3 tablespoons butter or margarine in 8-inch square pan; brush sides of pan with fat; mix in 1 tablespoon corn syrup, 1/2 cup lightly-packed brown sugar and 1/2 cup broken walnuts or pecans. Combine in a shallow bowl 1/2 cup sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg. Cut out rounded spoonfuls of dough, coat with cinnamon mixture and place in pan; sprinkle with any remaining spiced sugar. Cover and let rise until double in bulk. Bake in moderately hot oven, 375°, about 35 minutes.

2. Cheese Pull-Aparts Line bottom of

a greased 8-inch square pan with greased waxed paper. Cut half of dough into rounded spoonfuls; place in pan; sprinkle with 2 cups shredded cheese. Spoon remaining half of dough on top; grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in moderately hot oven, 375°, about 35 minutes.

3. Seed Buns Cut out rounded spoonfuls of dough and drop into greased muffin pans—each spoonful should about half fill a pan. Brush with melted butter or margarine; sprinkle with poppy seeds. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in moderately hot oven, 375°, 20 to 25 minutes.

School Togs

No. 1021—The imitation yoke, set-in sleeves and tiny collar of this toddler's coat are repeated on the dress; there is a pleat at the back of the flared coat, and the skirt of the dress is gathered at the waist. Sizes ½, 1, 2 and 3 years. Size 2 requires 1½ yards 36-inch material for dress; 1½ yards 36-inch or 1¼ yards 54-inch material for coat. Price 35 cents.

No. 1020—For the style-conscious miss a sailor collar tops this princess coat. The front crosses over well. Sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 4 requires 2¾ yards 36-inch or 1½ yards 54-inch material. Price 35 cents.



No. 4878—An empire waist gives a perfect fit to this one-piece dress with puff sleeves, Peter Pan collar and 79-inch flare skirt. Sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 4 requires 2¼ yards 36-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 1023—Girl's suit has short fitted jacket with set-in sleeves and tiny collar; a full skirt held out by a ruffled petticoat. Sizes 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 requires 4 yards 36-inch or 2¾ yards 54-inch material for suit; 2½ yards for petticoat and bow. Price 35 cents.

No. 4990—Make the yoke and cuffs of this western shirt and jeans of the same material as the trousers, the pants pockets like the shirt. Transfer pattern included. Sizes 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. Size 8 requires 1½ yards 35-inch for pants, yoke and cuffs; 1¼ yards 35-inch for shirt and pants pockets. Price 35 cents.

No. 4951—Fashion right are the sailor collar, unpressed pleats and short or three-quarter cuffed sleeves on this young girl's dress. Sizes 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 requires 3½ yards 35-inch or 2½ yards 54-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 1032—There are eight gores in the skirt and a square neckline on this tot's jumper; the waist-length jacket has a large, round collar, button front and long or short sleeves. Sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 4 requires 3½ yards 36-inch or 1¼ yards 54-inch for jumper and jacket. Price 35 cents.

No. 4787—There is style and comfort for the growing girl in this empire-line dress with its zippered back closing, flare skirt, set-in sleeves and contrasting collar and cuffs. Sizes 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 requires 3¼ yards 36-inch or 1½ yards 54-inch material. Price 35 cents.



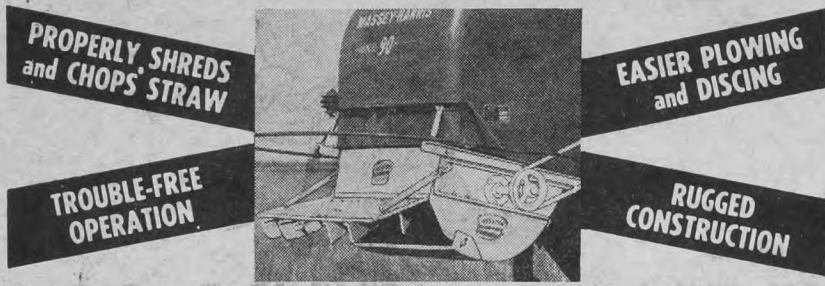
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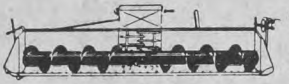
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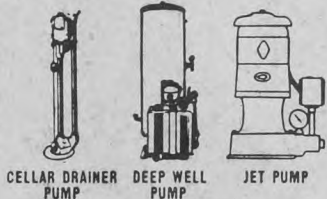
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C.F.A. Annual Meeting

Continued from page 7

mark, stamp, or stencil. Both recommendations were accepted.

A much more lively hog problem concerned the proposal for optional live-grading of hogs. This proposal originates in western Canada, where long distances, both from producers to public markets, and from public markets in the West to eastern markets, are thought to be a handicap to the western producer. The proposal really centers about the willingness of the government to pay premiums on live hogs shipped to the U.S. market. Eastern hog producers do not want any watering down of rail grading, and fear the consequences of live-graded hogs on eastern markets. Three representatives each from the Eastern and Western Conferences will discuss this problem and attempt to reach agreement.

A rather knotty problem worked its way to the top again this year in connection with the allocation of cars to elevators, as provided by the car-order-book section of the Canada Grain Act. Everyone was agreed that the placing of boxcars at country elevators should be in accordance with the preferences of farmers for certain elevators, but there is a difference of opinion as to the best method of bringing this desirable situation about. While the car-order-book privilege stems from the Canada Grain Act, the control of car allocation rests now with the Canadian Wheat Board which requisitions, distributes, and sells the grain. Whether provisions to safeguard the farmers' long-established right should be modernized and operation continued under the Canadian Wheat Board, or whether a somewhat elaborate provision for achieving this end through the Board of Grain Commissioners would be preferable, is still to be decided.

Faith and confidence in the International Wheat Agreement, and the Canadian Wheat Board, were again reaffirmed. Similarly, the C.F.A. plumped for acreage-quota deliveries to be applied and maintained throughout each delivery season. Similar general agreement was given to a resolution protesting the present practice of issuing only single delivery permit books to farmers who may share the use of machinery and living quarters. The meeting decided that any individual who has title to a farm in his own name, or who operates under a lease, should be entitled to a delivery permit book "regardless of machinery used, or place of dwelling."

TWO resolutions on soil and water conservation and land use were approved. One of these, endorsing the recommendations of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, urged that the federal government establish a national policy of soil and water conservation and land use; that the provincial government should provide legislation and offer guidance to municipalities and farmers; and that local self-governing committees should be set up under provincial legislation.

Another resolution urged establishment of a Great Plains water authority by both provincial and federal governments. Such authority to "have power to prevent the pollution of rivers and

to control and operate every kind of service designed to best utilize our prairie water resources."

One of the resolutions which received enthusiastic endorsement at all levels of discussion had to do with the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement. The resolution had reference to the recent recommendation of Mr. Justice Sloan of British Columbia, that the government of Canada should provide further subsidies to the railroad companies to compensate them for alleged losses incurred in maintaining the existing Crow's Nest Pass rates on grain. A resolution put the C.F.A. on record as repudiating "this wholly unfounded recommendation," and called upon the federal government "to resist the proposal that any additional subsidy is necessary, or should be granted, because of the existence of the Crow's Nest Pass grain rates."

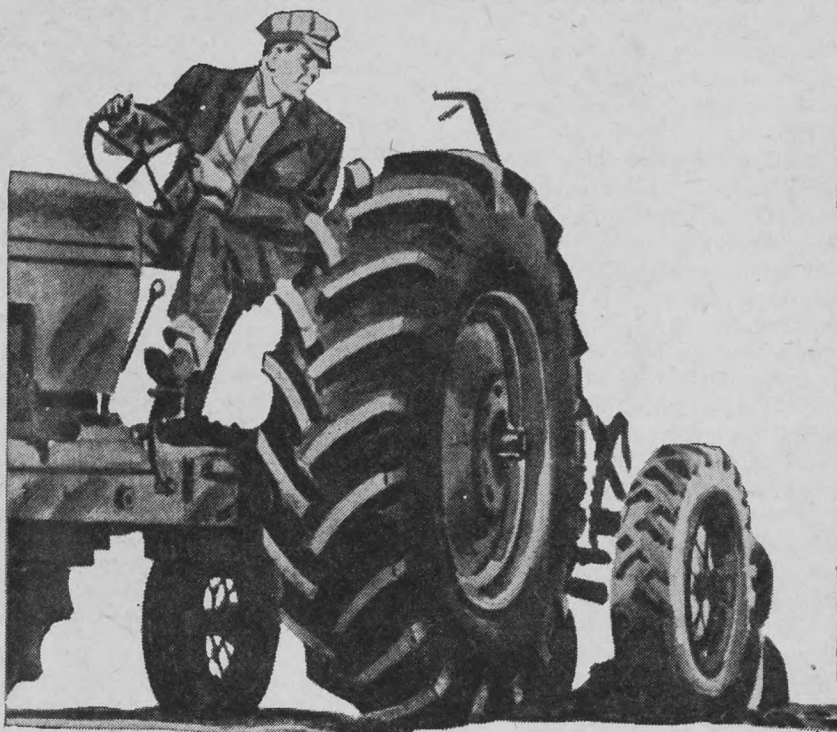
THE women's section of the farm movement was responsible for a resolution urging the grading of consumer goods. It urged that since all farm products must be graded and inspected, whereas many consumer goods offered for sale seemed to be of poor quality, "the C.F.A. requests the Government of Canada to strictly enforce the Standard Brands Act, and to see that all consumer goods meet proper requirements for the protection of the buying public." The women were also responsible for a decision that the C.F.A. study, sympathetically, the question "of whether a national health plan is the answer to present costs of medical services, and what type of plan would best meet Canada's health needs."

Certain areas in Canada, notably British Columbia, parts of Ontario, and the Maritime Provinces, where a number of highly specialized cash crops such as fruits, vegetables, and potatoes are grown, frequently experience great difficulty with seasonally imported products that are virtually, if not actually, dumped on the Canadian market by U.S. growers. Moreover, the Canadian tariff is sometimes lower than the U.S. tariff. These areas, therefore, occasionally present resolutions which run counter to the normal free-trade or low-tariff thinking of prairie farmers. Some interesting discussions then result, in which logic and sense of fair play usually, if not always, win out. A number of such resolutions went before the C.F.A. in Edmonton. The potato growers of British Columbia had some support in one of these vigorous discussions, as a result of which it appeared that they are subjected at certain seasons to unfair competition from sections of the United States, which are by no means regular suppliers of the Canadian market.

There are few subjects which are likely to interest a gathering of farm folk more than a discussion, on the one hand, of surplus farm commodities, and on the other, the needs of backward or undeveloped countries. On the question of surplus food disposal the annual meeting passed two resolutions. In the first, it believes that as part of an agricultural price support program, all possible steps should be taken "by producers, processors, and governments" looking to the expansion of markets for farm commodities and the development of new markets in countries where food supplies are inadequate, rather than to adopt policies

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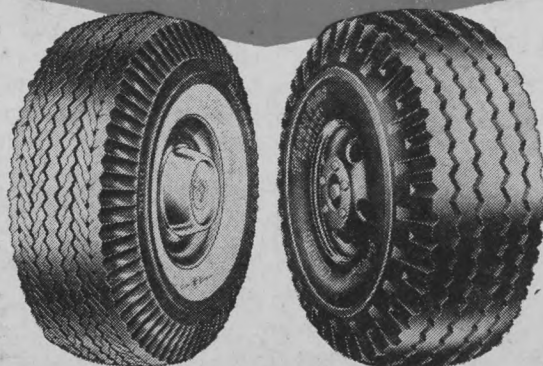
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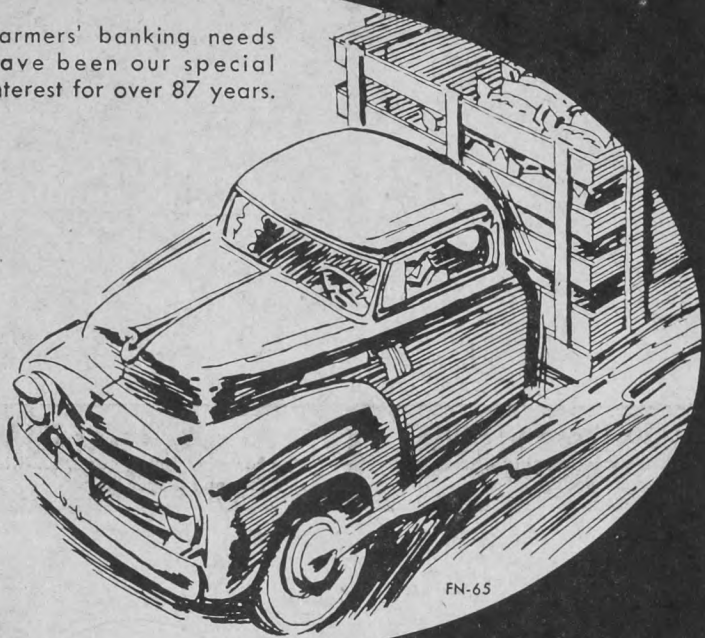
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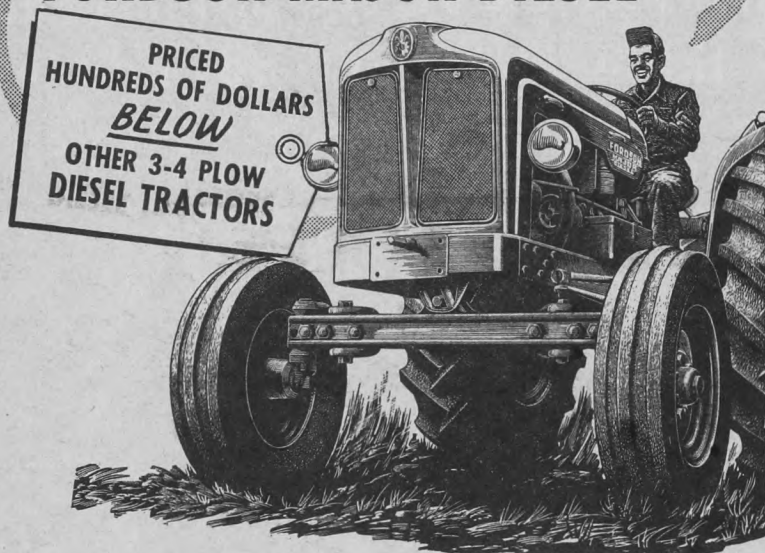
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which would tend to restrict production. The second urges that the best and most permanent solution to the economic and food problems of underdeveloped countries is to be obtained through F.A.O., or the Colombo Plan, and similar programs of technical assistance. It urges that Canada's contributions to these programs should be increased, and further suggests that as long as these underdeveloped countries continue to experience severe scarcities in food supplies, all possible measures should be adopted to relieve hunger and malnutrition by distributing surplus Canadian farm products, either free, or at special low prices, without disrupting normal conditions of trade.

A thorny question before the C.F.A. concerned the proposed Canadian meat council. This proposal involved the collection of five cents per head from market cattle to support a public relations program which would aim at increasing the consumption of red meats in Canada. This question has been under discussion, particularly in western Canada, for a number of years; and during the last two years particularly, has been urged strongly by the Canadian Council of Beef Producers, mainly with respect to beef. The question was referred to provincial federations for discussion and study by the semi-annual meeting held last July in Amherst, Nova Scotia. The Edmonton meeting reported that insufficient support for the proposal had been reported by member organizations to justify C.F.A. endorsement, and referred the question back to provincial federations until they are prepared to approve this, or a similar proposal.

SIX resolutions included in the policy statement from the Dairy Farmers of Canada went through the meeting. All were directed to the federal government. Three resolutions requested protection against the importation of dairy products from other countries and, in particular, cheddar cheese, as long as dairy products are in surplus position in this country; and against the importation of edible oils or the products from which these are made. Two of the resolutions related to butter. One asked that the present support price of 58 cents per pound be continued for an additional two years, and the other that the government dispose of 22 million pounds of surplus butter in the export market. (Instead, Mr. Gardiner announced that the government would offer surplus butter to public institutions in Canada at a reduced price.) A further resolution asked the federal government to support and encourage plans to assist provincial authorities to provide free milk to children in primary and secondary schools.

H. H. Hannam was re-elected president for 1955, with W. J. Parker, Winnipeg, as first vice-president, J. B. Lemoine, Montreal, as second vice-president, and the following executive members: V. E. Ellison (B.C.); Roy Marler (Alta.); T. G. Bobier (Sask.); J. D. Wilton (Man.); J. A. Ferguson (Ont.); H. C. Bois (Que.); Alphonse Arseneault (N.B.); J. E. Brownlee (U.C.G.); and Gilbert McMillan (Dairy Farmers of Canada).

The next annual meeting of the C.F.A. will be held at Hamilton, Ontario, during the last week of January, 1956.

The Countrywoman

Continued from page 58

Lethbridge, on January 7, 1953, rated dairying in Canadian farm income: "The monetary value of dairy products runs neck and neck with wheat or meat, while the total farm value of all products arising from dairy herds for the years 1944-1949 was considerably greater than that of wheat. Almost half of the bovine meats came from dairy herds. Probably no other single farm activity contributed more to the total farm value of Canadian agricultural products."

Under these circumstances, Dr. Thornton points out, there is need for research, leadership and action. "It is a nice question in theoretical ethics and practical psychology as to who should collect the data and who should inform the public. Dairymen have been criticized frequently and harshly for an inadequate public relations program . . . If dairying is just another Canadian industry with its back to the wall, then the major responsibility rests with dairymen . . ."

He has found a widespread hesitancy to come to grips with the problem based in part "on a lack of clarity as to the essentiality of dairying's contribution and in a large part to *Maybe*, spelt with a capital M. *Maybe* the depictions of we pessimists will not materialize; *Maybe* a satisfactory chemical treatment of soil will be discovered; *Maybe* a hungry 200 million United States consumers won't be able to grow their own beef and pork and will beg for ours; *Maybe* a yeast substitute for meat will be found; *Maybe* a half-million farmers can find a substitute for their dairy activities; *Maybe* we could rear our children in oriental fashion."

A Doubting Thomas

Continued from page 52

o'clock I headed for the swamp where after much groping in the slime I came up with a puny little frog. With the callousness of youth he was dispatched into the Never-never and I was faced with the problem of removing the legs. I didn't have a jackknife, mother being of the opinion that such things were unladylike but I had filched a broken case knife from the cutlery drawer and with this I managed to saw off the two hind legs.

I washed them carefully in the brook. Then I started a small fire on a flat rock. When it was going quite cheerfully, I impaled the legs on a sharp stick and held them over the flames. The sticks kept catching fire, too, and every few minutes I had to snatch my "delicacies" from the fire and wave them around to put out the flames. After ten minutes I was so eager to try this great French treat that I concluded the legs were done. I had some salt and pepper in a bottle with which I sprinkled the legs. Then I took a good big bite. They were slimy and tasted like chicken that had been keeping close company with an over-ripe fish. I ate them both but it was a long time before I could hear a frog peeping in the swamp without a twinge in the pit of my stomach.

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Jergens Lotion positively stops "Detergent Hands"

**From the report of a leading U. S. research laboratory*

The Country



HOW you wobble about when you are first learning to skate, then quite suddenly down you go on the ice with a crack . . . you almost believe the ice came up to meet you! It isn't long, however, until you are able to skim over the ice with long, swift strokes almost like a bird on the wing. Then you are ready to try some skating races and games, fancy skating and hockey. Skating is truly a Canadian sport and Canadian boys and girls learn to skate at an early age.

Skating was known many years ago in Europe, about the year 1000. The primitive Norsemen used to slide over the ice on bone "runners" tied to their feet with thongs (you may see some of these first "skates" preserved in museums). The Finns, English and Dutch people used skates very early.

Later when people learned how to work with iron, metal runners mounted on wooden frames were used strapped to the boots. When the art of skating was brought to Canada by the early settlers, the idea of using clamps to fasten wooden—later metal frames to soles of boots was begun. These were called "club skates." Today, of course, we use blades and metal frames fastened permanently to skating boots.

Ann Sankey

Goblin's Feather

by Mary Grannan

SPRING was just over the hill. It was a time of new things. New leaves were ready to burst from their buds, and new flowers were waiting for sun to waken them from winter dreaming. It was a time for new hats, too. Little Polly McFee noticed that, as she sat on her front doorstep, with her doll in her arms.

"Araminta," she said, "you should have a new hat. Every lady who has passed by our house this morning is wearing a new spring hat. I shall make you one."

Polly ran around the house and into the kitchen, where her mother was polishing the silver. Polly watched the process for a few minutes. "Do you want to help me, Polly?" asked Mrs. McFee. "Is that why you came in?"

Polly shook her head. At any other time, she would have been delighted to help to clean silver, but now she had more important business at hand. "No, Mum," she said, "I don't want to help, but if you need me, I'll help, even if I don't want to."

Mrs. McFee laughed. "I can manage nicely without you, dear, but you must have come in for some reason. Is Araminta hungry? Perhaps she needs a cookie?"

Polly shook her head again. "No, Mum, she needs a new hat. Everyone is wearing a new hat. Araminta should have one, too."

Mrs. McFee agreed that Araminta should have a spring bonnet, and was pleased to learn that Polly was going to make it.

"But I need something to make it from. Do you have any pretty pieces of silk, or satin, or straw, or flowers?"

"There's not a scrap of material in the house," she said. Polly's face fell. Mrs. McFee went on, "I'm sure if you went over to Miss Noseworthy's cottage, she'd be able to find something for you. She makes patchwork quilts, and has all sorts of bits and pieces."

Still clasping Araminta in her arms, Polly went hopping off to Miss Noseworthy's, for she was a good friend. She lived alone, in a small stone house on the next street. Her back garden and Polly's back garden lay end to end, with a little gate between. Polly lifted the latch of the picket gate, and went into the garden. As she was passing the bare blackberry bushes, she noticed a pretty white feather, caught in the thorns. She laughed. "Look, Araminta," she said, holding the doll forward. "A feather! It's the very thing for your new spring bonnet. I'll pick it from the thorns."

Polly removed the feather ever so carefully, and put it, just as carefully, into her pocket.

The little girl was bewildered by the variety of materials that Miss Noseworthy's rag-bag had to offer. She found it hard to choose, but Miss Noseworthy was helpful. "I think pink is a lovely color for spring, Polly," she said. "It's so fresh and pretty. If I were you, I'd make the bonnet from this bit of pink satin. It would be most becoming to Araminta."

Polly held the pink fabric against Araminta's blonde hair. "You're right, Miss Noseworthy," she said, "and the white feather I found on your blackberry bushes, will go very nicely with it, too. If you'll lend me your scissors and some thread and a needle, I'll make my hat out on your back steps. The sun is shining out there, and it's such a nice day."

Miss Noseworthy obliged with the necessary tools for work, and the bonnet began to take shape under Polly's eager little hands. When it was finished, Polly set it on Araminta's head. "It looks lovely on you, Araminta," she said, "but you need a hat-pin. I'll go see if Miss Noseworthy has one with a pink head."

Again Miss Noseworthy obliged, and Polly returned to the back steps. Araminta was sitting just where Polly had left her, but her new spring bonnet was gone. Her cry of dismay was so loud, that Miss Noseworthy came running to see what was the matter.

Boy and Girl

"Araminta's new hat is gone. She was wearing it when I went into the house, and now it's gone," Polly sobbed.

"Perhaps the wind has carried it away," said Miss Noseworthy.

"But there is no wind," said Polly.

Miss Noseworthy looked thoughtful for a moment, and she threw up her hands. "I knew it," she said, "I knew it when I saw it, but I thought nothing of it. Polly, a goblin has taken Araminta's bonnet."

"A goblin!" gasped Polly, "but why should a goblin take my doll's bonnet?"

"For a very good reason," said Miss Noseworthy. "The feather that you put on the bonnet was a white owl's feather, and goblins wear white owl feathers in their caps. He thought that you had made the cap for him."

Polly was very angry. "But I didn't make the bonnet for him, and I'm going to tell him so. Miss Noseworthy, do you know where I can find that wicked little goblin?"

Miss Noseworthy smiled. "I don't know where you can find him, but I can tell you how you can find him."

Polly listened carefully to the directions that Miss Noseworthy gave her, and hurried to the blackberry bushes at the foot of the garden.

"One, two, three, A, B, C," she chanted, "Goblin, Goblin, come to me."

To her amazement, a little green goblin popped up from behind the cedar hedge. He was wearing Araminta's new spring bonnet. "You calling me?" he said, with a flick of his green wings.

In spite of her surprise, Polly answered clearly and firmly, "I certainly did call you," she said. "You're wearing Araminta's bonnet, and I want you to return it immediately."

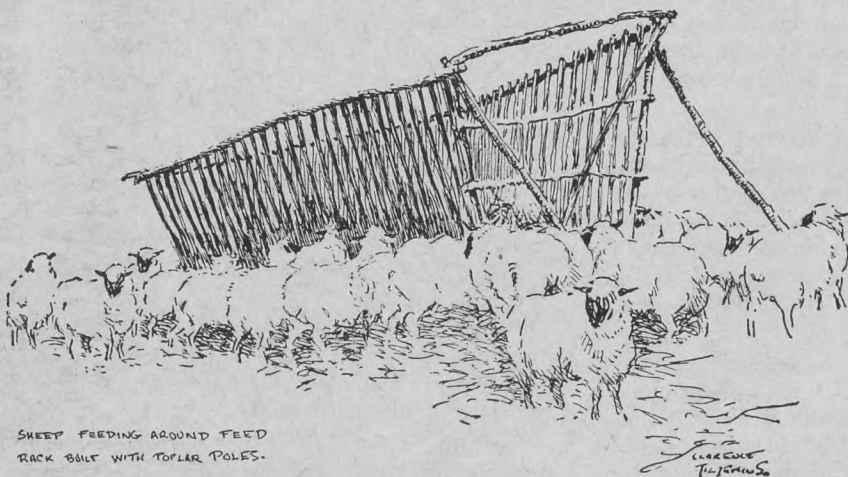
The goblin frowned, puzzled. "This is my cap," he said. "It must be my cap. It has a white owl's feather. Any hat with a white owl's feather, belongs to a goblin."

"Not that one," persisted Polly. "I made that hat, and it's for my doll. Please give it to me right away."

But the goblin laughed impudently at such an idea, and disappeared, hat and all. That afternoon Polly made another hat for Araminta, but she trimmed it with flowers.

Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 36 in series—by CLARENCE TILLENIUS



SHEEP FEEDING AROUND FEED
RACK BUILT WITH TOLLER POLES.

ON any farm, but especially on backwoods farms, subjects for the artist are all around you. Any chance grouping of animals, horses at the water trough, cattle around a straw stack, chickens feeding, give a chance for sketching an interesting composition.

The accompanying sketch is of the kind that is often difficult to begin. In the first place, the large number of poles in the feed rack are confusing, and if you do not understand the construction of the rack, you may waste much time on unnecessary details. With a subject like this, begin with the top part of the rack, and tackle it as a carpenter would—by building the frame or foundation first.

Decide which are the four corner poles and the angle at which they stand. Then the cross-braces and a

few quick lines to indicate the direction of the side poles. Now count the poles in one side and mark where the center one comes. Then count off half of the poles from the center to end and mark that. In this way, subdividing each time, you will be able to place everything accurately, which you likely could not do if you started from one end without measuring.

Perhaps you wonder why one would not begin with the sheep. Well, in this case, the rack cannot move, and if you get that drawn correctly and in proportion, you will have something by which you can estimate the relative size, proportion and outline of the entire flock of sheep. Try, as far as you can, to sketch in the whole flock as one shape. It will take some practice. It is easier and better than to subdivide the flock into individual sheep.



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THE *Country* GUIDE

with which is incorporated

THE NOR'-WEST FARMER and FARM and HOME
Serving the farmers of Western Canada Since 1882

VOL. LXXIV WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY, 1955 No. 2

Crow's Nest Pass Rates

OVER a period of nearly 60 years, the Parliament of Canada, provincial governments and farm organizations have combined to provide four strong pillars for the grain-producing industry of the prairie provinces. The earliest of these was the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement which provided the early settlers,—as it still does for the 230,000 grain producers today,—with a declaration of transportation rights, assured in perpetuity. The second was the Canada Grain Act, the Magna Charta of the grain producer, which guaranteed him uniform grades and reasonable uniformity in elevator handling charges. The third was the formation of the farmers' own grain marketing organizations which served as guards about his business, and have gradually taken over the bulk of all grain-handling facilities. The fourth was the Canadian Wheat Board, which cut the speculator down to size, made The International Wheat Agreement practicable for Canada, and proved that wheat of the same quality could bring the same price to the grower.

The Crow's Nest Pass rates have been under frequent attack. For many years, the railroads have sought increased freight revenue from the easy annual haul of hundreds of millions of bushels of prairie grain across the long, level route to the head of the lakes. Latecomers to the field of efficiency, the knowledge that an increase in these rates would decrease the net income of every prairie farmer, has not lessened their appetites for the rich gravy just beyond reach.

The Country Guide welcomes and commends the recent announcement by a member of the federal government that the government has no thought of interfering with these rates at the present time. A great deal of apprehension among farmers will be allayed by this announcement.

Welcome as it is, however, the announcement fails to allay an additional cause for apprehension. We refer to the unfortunate, and, we think, ill-considered recommendation of Mr. Justice Sloan, sole arbitrator appointed by the federal government in the recent railway wage dispute. He recommended that the government pay the railways a subsidy in lieu of alleged losses sustained by the railways because of the Crow's Nest rate. This would be a surprising enough by-product of a labor dispute at any time. Under the circumstances it was quite unwarranted and uncalled for.

The grain freight movement in western Canada represents a type of transportation, which, for volume and length of easy haul, is unequalled in Canada. Grain moves in 40- to 60-ton full carlots. It is marshalled in long, complete trains, which cross the prairies or the mountains with a minimum of switching or labor. Moreover, it would require exhaustive inquiry and lengthy study by a corps of expert accountants to determine whether the rates now charged under the Agreement are, or are not, profitable. Mr. Justice Sloan did not conduct such an inquiry. He had no evidence of this kind before him. He heard neither witnesses nor argument.

No wonder that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in its annual meeting resolved to "repudiate this wholly unfounded recommendation, and call upon the Government of Canada to resist the proposal that any additional subsidy is necessary, or should be granted, because of the existence of the Crow's Nest Pass grain rates.

No losses such as are suggested by the recommendation of Mr. Justice Sloan have ever been proved. The payment, therefore, of a subsidy in any way connected with this recommendation, would constitute an unwarranted assumption by the government that the railways were carrying grain at a

loss. We do not question the right of the government to pay a subsidy to the railways, but a far-reaching precedent would be established if it were to do so under the circumstances. V

The Parity Principle

FARMERS and farm organizations are giving a great deal of attention to the economic position of agriculture, in relation to other parts of the economy. Most of the thinking on this subject centers around the term "parity," and the need of price supports of some kind to stabilize farm prices. Parity, however, appears to mean different things to different people. Some associate it with the idea of a fair share of the national income. Others, who may or may not identify their views with some form of parity, speak rather of support prices which would bear some reasonable relationship to the cost of production. Still others consider parity to mean net income from farm operations that would bear a favorable relationship to the net income received by operators of other kinds of business requiring similar amounts of capital and similar standards of managerial ability.

The present system of applying price supports in agriculture by means of the Agricultural Prices Support Act, while satisfactory in some ways, is unsatisfactory in others. The Act provides for a \$200 million fund to be used for the purpose of maintaining farm prices in reasonable relationship to the cost of things farmers must buy. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, has repeatedly stated that this relationship is held to be based on prices and costs during the last three years of the war. Supports, as and when provided, are at the discretion of the Minister, with or without the advice of the Agricultural Prices Support Board.

It is to be presumed that some more or less standard method of establishing support prices is followed, which in turn presupposes some kind of formula. The complaint of farmers and their organizations, however, is that nothing is known of either method or formula, which are closely held secrets. It could be, of course, that there is neither method nor formula; that each request for a support price is treated "on its merits;" and that the reasonable relationship between farm costs and prices specified in the Act is achieved by variable doses of appropriate statistics mixed with convenient proportions of the Minister's well-known political sagacity. At any rate, the secret is well held.

Another complaint of the producer is that he is always kept guessing as to whether there will, or will not, be a price support for his specific product, beyond very near-by expiry dates. There is more truth than fiction in the remark originating with a Manitoba producer, that farmers have felt themselves obliged to depend "on God and Jimmy Gardiner."

The various branches of the industry appear to be increasingly dissatisfied with the rather nebulous mechanics by which the Agricultural Prices Support Act is being operated. It is true that they might be willing to continue a little while longer as unhappy protestants, as long as the Minister's partnership with Divinity continues. On the other hand, should he decide to break it up, or even leave the Cabinet, there is every likelihood that there would be less confidence in the unpractised legerdemain of his successor. V

Agricultural Societies

THE first agricultural society in Canada was formed 167 years ago. Societies have existed in the prairie provinces for 80 years, but the number of active societies in the three provinces today is less than 200. A long time ago it was said that the agricultural society is a mirror of the community. From the fact that there are hundreds of rural prairie communities and at least as many more in other parts of Canada, it must be evident that only a tiny fraction of the total number of communities are able to see themselves as others see them.

Even before there were any agricultural societies as such in this country, the first "fair" was held; and throughout the long history of agricultural

societies the tendency has been for the majority of them to believe that they have fulfilled their proper function if a fair is held annually.

The purpose for which agricultural societies were first formed was for the improvement of agriculture. Originally, the societies looked over the field for new and useful information. Individual members brought it back to the community by letter or by person, when it was discussed and, if thought useful, applied by the farmers of the area. A few still hold fast to this idea, but they constitute a minute minority. This is not nearly good enough. Unless people of rural communities are willing to regard the agricultural society as a logical center around which to rally the agricultural interests of the community, and make it the focal point for their mutual dependence on the soil, there can be little excuse for continuing it.

The fact is that Canada is now experiencing a period of rapid expansion. Non-farm industries are characterized by the development of large numbers of very large commercial institutions, with a great deal of capital, and central management. Labor organizations are strong and effective. Such organizations spend a great deal of money on the research necessary in their own fields. They are constantly on the lookout for new ideas. Agriculture, on the other hand, is an industry of small family businesses; and no such business may expand beyond certain limits. Research and extension facilities are therefore provided for agriculture by governments. Unfortunately, the number of those who seek this information and these services of their own volition, is so small as to seriously threaten the ability of agriculture to maintain its present status in the national economy, to say nothing of closing the gap which many feel exists.

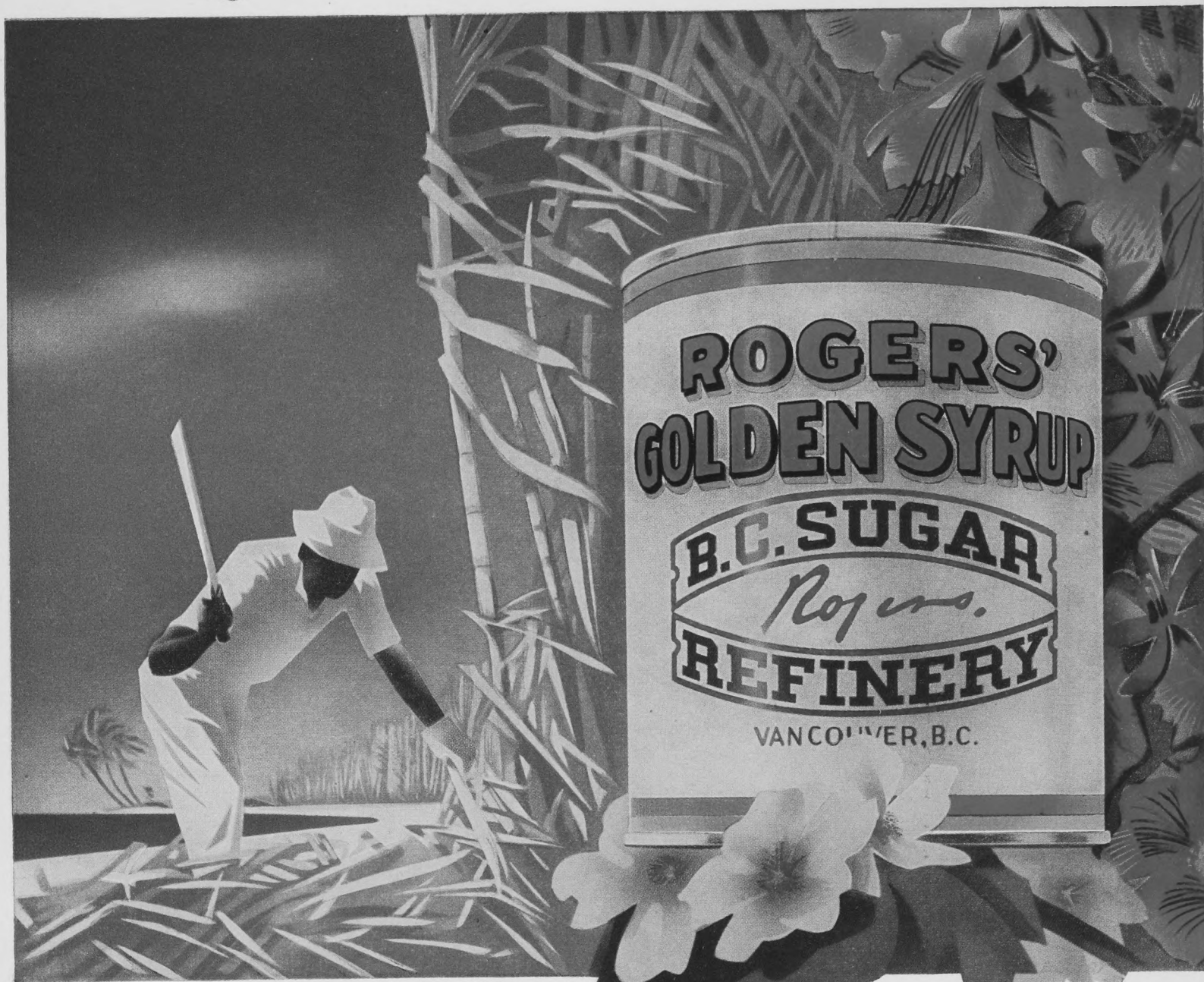
Our extension services are falling behind in the task of extending to the farmer the information which is now available in such variety and quantity. This is not the fault of these services, or of their personnel. How could it be, when such a large percentage of farmers fail to reach out a hand to accept the help so freely available? Agricultural societies could well spark a self-help community program in this connection, and be the focal point of contact with all the agencies established to assist agriculture in overcoming its natural handicaps. How much preferable such a policy and program would be, and how much more useful and practical, than to plod along faithfully year after year, with eyes raised no higher than a government grant, as so many evidently do. V

In the Trough

CANADIAN agriculture appears now to be at the low point—the trough—of its prosperity cycle. This estimate was put forward by H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, at the nineteenth meeting of the Federation, held last month at Edmonton.

Basically, it is true that price difficulties arising from the production and marketing of troublesome numbers of hogs, cattle, and poultry are due to the planning and operations of farmers themselves. This is like saying, perhaps, that rain is caused by the weather. What may not be fully appreciated by many farmers, however, is that it is easier today to disturb the balance between prices and marketable quantities than it used to be. A ten-million-pound cheese surplus now presents a far more serious problem than 50 million pounds presented 30 years ago. International trade is more delicately balanced today for many products, than formerly. On the other hand, mechanization has advanced to a remarkable degree; yields of crops have improved substantially; commercial fertilizers are in much more general use; weeds can be controlled by chemicals; cattle, hogs and poultry can be brought to market at earlier ages; and in nearly all aspects of farm production and management, similar progress has been made. This can only mean that with his increased ability to produce—per acre and per hour of labor—the farmer's obligation to plan his production has likewise increased. Farming from mere habit provides a rough road to success,—and roughest of all, when farm prices are declining. V

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which now makes fields of ripe, golden grain a reality on acres that once produced nothing but frozen crops.

For his great services to agriculture, a salute to Canada's Grand Old Man, Dr. Angus MacKay. His work produced an agricultural heritage . . . a heritage that is kept alive by the capable farmers of Canada who proudly produce for their nation and the world.

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Today, when every machine on your farm has to show a surer profit than ever before, it's *twice* as important that you get the facts on the *money-making* Harvestors. Whether your farm calls for the MM Harvester 69, the 12-foot G-4, the self-propelled S Harvester, or the pace-setting new MM Uni-Harvester . . . MM gives you a combine that's built to pay you *bigger profits*, to cut your costs by cutting your time in the field.

IN CANADA, TIME IS ALL IMPORTANT—MM HARVESTORS GIVE YOU MORE HARVESTING TIME MM builds the Harvestors knowing that *minutes* mean *dollars* during harvesting season. That's why equipment like the MM auger unloader is standard on the Harvestors unless

otherwise specified. With the MM auger you can save up to 2¼ hours of valuable time *every day*. Here's how! Combining 15 acres of 60 bushel grain in one day the auger unloader handles 900 bushels of grain. With the 20-bushel grain bin of the MM Harvester "69," for example, you would unload 45 times. The fast auger unloader empties the bin in approximately 90 seconds. Compared to other combines that do not have the MM auger, the "69" saves about three minutes per unloading, or 2 hours and 15 minutes. And that's not all, MM Harvestors can be unloaded standing still or *on the go*. You do not have to stop to empty the bin . . . but you still get the same *faster* operation of the MM auger unloader.

SEE YOUR MM DEALER FOR HARVESTOR FACTS!

If you want the *bigger capacity* operation and the *extra* harvesting time that MM Harvestors offer—see your MM dealer. He can give you real *facts* on all 4 Harvester models . . . facts that show *sure profits* in your farming operation.



MINNEAPOLIS-MOLINE

OF CANADA LIMITED

REGINA, SASK.

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HERE'S THE MIGHTY "S" . . . Self-propelled Harvester with hydraulic Power-Flow drive . . . new dual control stick . . . new lighting system for night work and a host of profit-boosting advantages. The big-capacity "S" is available in 12-, 13-, and 14-foot sizes.



Wherever farmers have learned that they can show extra profits by windrowing their crops, the Minneapolis-Moline Windrowers are known for big-capacity, dependable operation. Available in 8-, 12-, and 14-ft. sizes, there's an MM Windrower to fit your fields.

Branches and Transfer Points in
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